■ WORLD / A11

Thaksin defies protest threat, won't quit

■ BUSINESS / B1

Peso surges to 51.65 to $1; stocks up 1.6%

■ METRO / A21

Ex-Taguig mayor cleared of graft charges

INQ7 marks 5th year with new online tools/ NEWS A4

'Wanted' solons prefer cold floor to warm hotel beds

IT'S A SAFE HOUSE!

By Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

REFUSING AN OFFER TO stay in a hotel, five lawmakers facing charges of rebellion spent their first night in custody together, sleeping on couches and on the floor of a cold room

WANTED/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, March 1, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 83 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Army chief forms elite anticoup unit in Metro

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Alcuin Papa

IN AN INDICATION THAT THE MILITARY UNREST is far from over, the Army chief has formed a 1,200-strong anticoup force that will respond to "any contingency or threat."

The special team composed of members of crack units in the Army—the Special Forces Regiment, Scout Rangers Regiment, Light Reaction

ARMY/ A8

SC: No TRO against 1017

Another Palace order under way, Joker warns

By Philip C. Tubeza, Armand N. Nocum and Daxim L. Lucas

SHE'S ONLY JUST BEGUN.

While critics slam her proclamation of a state of national emergency, President Macapagal-Arroyo is planning to issue yet another order to rout her perceived political enemies, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

"In what form? We don't know but in this country, there is never a secret," Arroyo said. "What we should worry about is the third one. I don't know if it is creeping martial law but there's something coming."

The warning came amid what appeared to be a setback for Arroyo's critics in the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban yesterday said that while the high tribunal was giving high priority to four petitions questioning the constitutionality of Proclamation No. 1017, it would not be goaded into issuing a temporary restraining order (TRO).

In an en banc meeting, the court set for Tuesday next week a hearing on the petitions and asked the government to submit by Monday its

SC: NO TRO/ A5

ROMY HOMILLADA

PEP TALK: Philippine Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon shares a light moment with elite members of what he described as an anticoup unit during a pep talk at Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. The special operations task force is intended to counter any destabilization moves against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Economic team told: RP not yet over the hump

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Tina Arceo-Dumlao and Ronnel W. Domingo

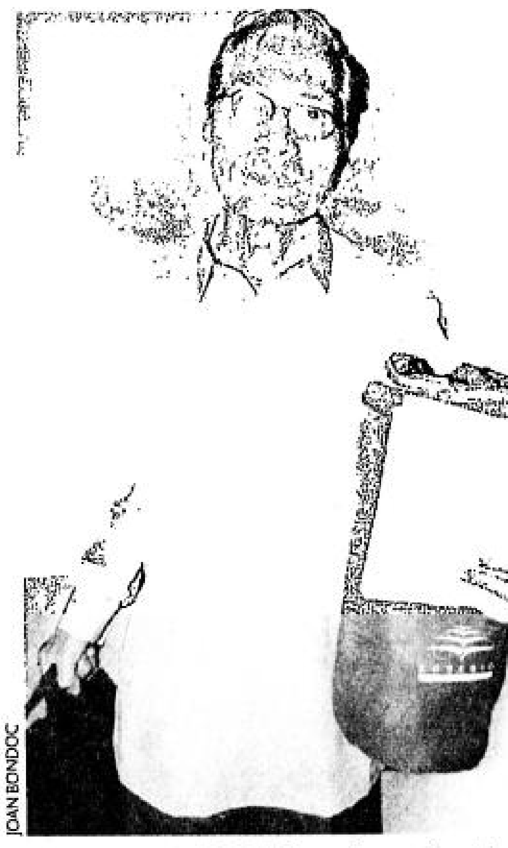
THE COUNTRY WILL REMAIN UNDER A state of national emergency at least until Saturday because security advisers of President Macapagal-Arroyo still believe that a plot by leftist and rightist elements to topple her has not been scuttled, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday.

Ms Arroyo signed Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 placing the country under a state of emergency on Friday.

At a briefing conducted by the Cabinet security cluster for economic managers on Monday night, security officials said they needed a little more time to assess and monitor the situation, according to Teves.

ECONOMIC/ A8

Congress unites behind 5 solons linked to coup plot



JOAN BONDOC

REP. SATUR OCAMPO faces the media with the sleeping bag he slept in on the cold floor of the House of Representatives.

By Michael Lim Ubac and Armand Nocum

DEFENDING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTAtives from "encroachments of the presidency," congressional leaders yesterday rebuked Malacañang for insisting on arresting party-list lawmakers facing charges of rebellion.

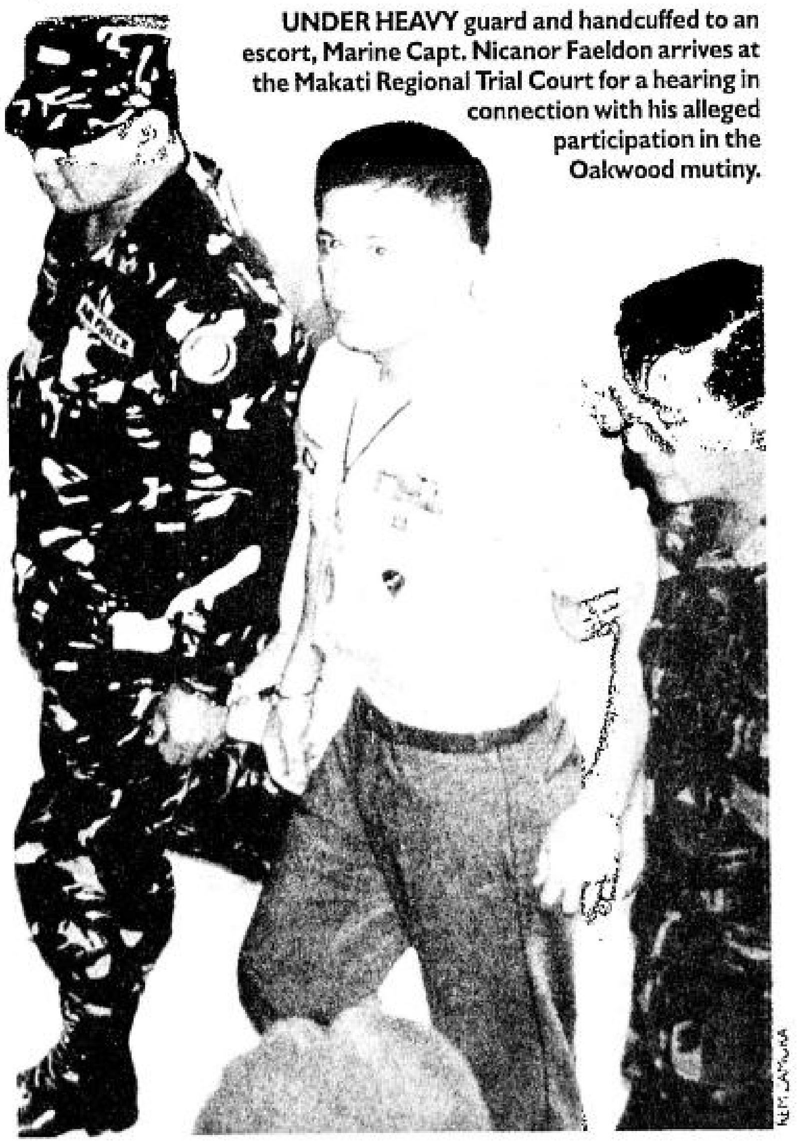
The rare show of unity at the House often wracked by partisan politics came after Department of Justice prosecutors tried to subject five lawmakers to inquest proceedings over allegations they were involved in a plot to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

An angry Rep. Satur Ocampo, one of those accused by the police of being involved in the plot, took the floor and denounced the "desecration of this institution" by the Arroyo administration's use of force.

Crossing party lines, administration and opposition House members in plenary session called on Speaker Jose de Venecia to defend the institutional independence of the legislature.

"The only way they can close Congress is when the Army is sent in to close it," declared Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., stressing that it was not the duty of the House leadership "to negotiate the arrest of any House member

CONGRESS/ A8



UNDER HEAVY guard and handcuffed to an escort, Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon arrives at the Makati Regional Trial Court for a hearing in connection with his alleged participation in the Oakwood mutiny.

Poverty grim reminder on Ash Wednesday

By Christian V. Esguerra

ON THE EVE OF ASH WEDNESday marking the start of Lent, the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines issued the reminder that poverty, not politics, was the Filipino Everyman's most serious problem.

"The most immediate and urgent priority of the common Filipinos is their daily struggle to earn their livelihood," Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said in a statement titled "Lent: A Call to Transformation."

"Poverty, despite the professed development at the macro level, remains the heaviest burden the country bears," he said.

Lagdameo had earlier called for sobriety amid reports of a supposed coup attempt against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose alleged manipulation of the 2004 presidential election remains unresolved.

"To all parties concerned, we as shepherds appeal to you to be open to reason and respect truth and the rule of law and to avoid creating the atmosphere of belligerency—because innocent

POVERTY/ A5

UP students, teachers walk out vs 1017

By DJ Yap and Christian V. Esguerra

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ON the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, walked out of their classes yesterday in open defiance of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which bans rallies.

More protests are being planned against the proclamation that President Macapagal-Arroyo issued on Friday placing the country under an emergency to thwart an alleged coup attempt.

Joel Cadiz, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, called on judges, lawyers, students and other activists to hold protests Friday, exactly one week after Ms Arroyo's declaration.

Catholic and Protestant groups also assailed PP 1017. The groups, led by the United Church

UP STUDENTS/ A10

Int'l group seeks halt to media crackdown

THE NEW YORK-BASED COMmittee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop her crackdown on the Philippine press, saying it threatened hard-won democracy.

Also yesterday, Senate President Franklin Drilon said the administration's directive to the Philippine National Police to set standards for media was "blatantly unlawful and unconstitutional."

"They cannot close the media under any circumstance, even when they declare martial law, because the right to information, the freedom of expression, the right to free speech, these are all contained in the Bill of Rights," Drilon said in an interview.

In a letter to Ms Arroyo, the CJP stressed that hers was the only administration since dictator Ferdinand Marcos was ousted in 1986 to use "restrictive means" that "send a profoundly disturbing message about the limits of press freedom."

The letter by CPJ executive

INT'L/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers, while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/03/01/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

US closely monitoring dev'ts in RP, Thailand

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES IS MONItoring closely the political turmoil in its two Southeast Asian allies, Thailand and the Philippines, amid extra-constitutional challenges to the democracies.

In Thailand, the main opposition parties are boycotting a snap election called by embattled Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra amid mammoth street protests demanding his resignation.

In the Philippines, just days after President Macapagal-Arroyo imposed emergency rule after an alleged coup plot linking military and police officers, efforts to oust her remain alive even as she widens a crackdown on the suspected plotters.

The United States has big stakes in the two Southeast Asian states.

Thailand and the Philippines, the only country in the region where Washington has temporarily stationed military troops, are non-NATO allies, a status conferred only to close US friends.

There are concerns in Washington that Ms Arroyo, who herself first came into power in 2001 through a "people power" uprising, would continue to cling to her emergency powers in what has been one of Asia's most vibrant democracies.

In Thailand, too, the US administration appears worried that if there is violence, the king might intervene and signal to the Prime Minister that his time is up.

Concern, interest

Philippine authorities have already detained four police officers and filed charges in court against 16 opposition figures.

"We will be watching with concern and interest the outcome of the court's deliberations based on the evidence provided," a US state department official told Agence France Presse.

"We expect to see the state of emergency lifted as soon as possible as the situation returns to normal," the official said, underlining the need for the government, the military and Filipinos "to respect the rule of law, protect civil liberties and rights and reject violence."

Both President Arroyo and Thaksin were democratically elected.

Thaksin was elected two times by a landslide but faces attacks over media freedom, corruption and Muslim unrest, among other charges.

Ms Arroyo, on the other hand, won by a relatively narrow margin in highly controversial polls in 2004, amid charges of cheating.

If the protests in Thailand turn violent, King Bhumibol Adulyadej might push for Thaksin's resignation or the military might intervene, some analysts warn.

"We respect the constitutional democratic process and hope that events would continue to unfold in Thailand in a peaceful manner that will respect the rule of law and the will of the Thai people," the state department official said.

Intervention by King

The Thai king has intervened in politics only a few times over his long reign, most recently in the bloody wake of the military's crackdown on democracy demonstrators in 1992.

"Historically the bar has been set very high for His Majesty to involve himself in such matters. He is revered in Thailand and has tremendous moral authority but has been judicious in the exercise of that power," said Karen Brooks, a former White House Asia policy chief.

The dilemma in the two countries is compounded by the fact that there are no clear alternatives to Thaksin or Ms Arroyo, Brooks said.

The political instability in the two economies is also causing anxiety among American businesses, although the region as a whole remains on their radar screens.

"When you have countries in the headlines with people in the streets, then investors and their boards of directors have to think twice," said Ernest Bower, the former head of the US-Asean Business Council.

Key opportunities

In Thailand, the crisis struck as many US companies were considering putting forward proposals for several mega projects.

In the Philippines, US businesses are eyeing key opportunities in the banking, energy and information technology sectors.

"Some of these can go forward, particularly IT, but projects which involve decisions of political leaders, I think investors have to be careful about where they put their foot right now," Bower cautioned.

AFP

Biazon: Garci scandal behind breakaway try

By TJ Burgonio

THE BREAKAWAY ATTEMPT BY Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Col. Ariel Querubin that fueled coup rumors culminating in last Friday's state of emergency proclamation may have been an offshoot of the military's failure to investigate four generals implicated in the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday.

Biazon disclosed in a hastily called news briefing that Lim and Querubin were among members of the Young Officers' Union (YOU) who sought an audience with him last July 2 to press for a Senate investigation of the role the generals played in alleged election cheating in Mindanao.

The YOU members had threatened to go on mass leave or resign if the government rebuffed their request for an investigation, Biazon said.

"It was just simply a statement of dismay over the fact that nothing was being done in relation to the mention of four generals allegedly being involved in the commission of election fraud," Biazon said.

Asked if last week's moves by Lim and Querubin were an offshoot of their dismay, Biazon replied: "Of course nobody can actually know what went on in the minds of these two gentlemen, but definitely that could be a logical assessment."

"Up until now, there's no resolution of that issue raised by the YOU," added Biazon, chair of the committee on defense.

Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko (ret.) and Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani (ret.), Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon were mentioned in the Garci tapes as being involved in fraud during the May 2004 election, which they all denied.

On Biazon's request, Gen. Efren Abu, AFP chief of staff at the time, conducted an investigation but his successor, Gen. Generoso Senga, said the probe did not focus on the involvement of the generals in the scandal.

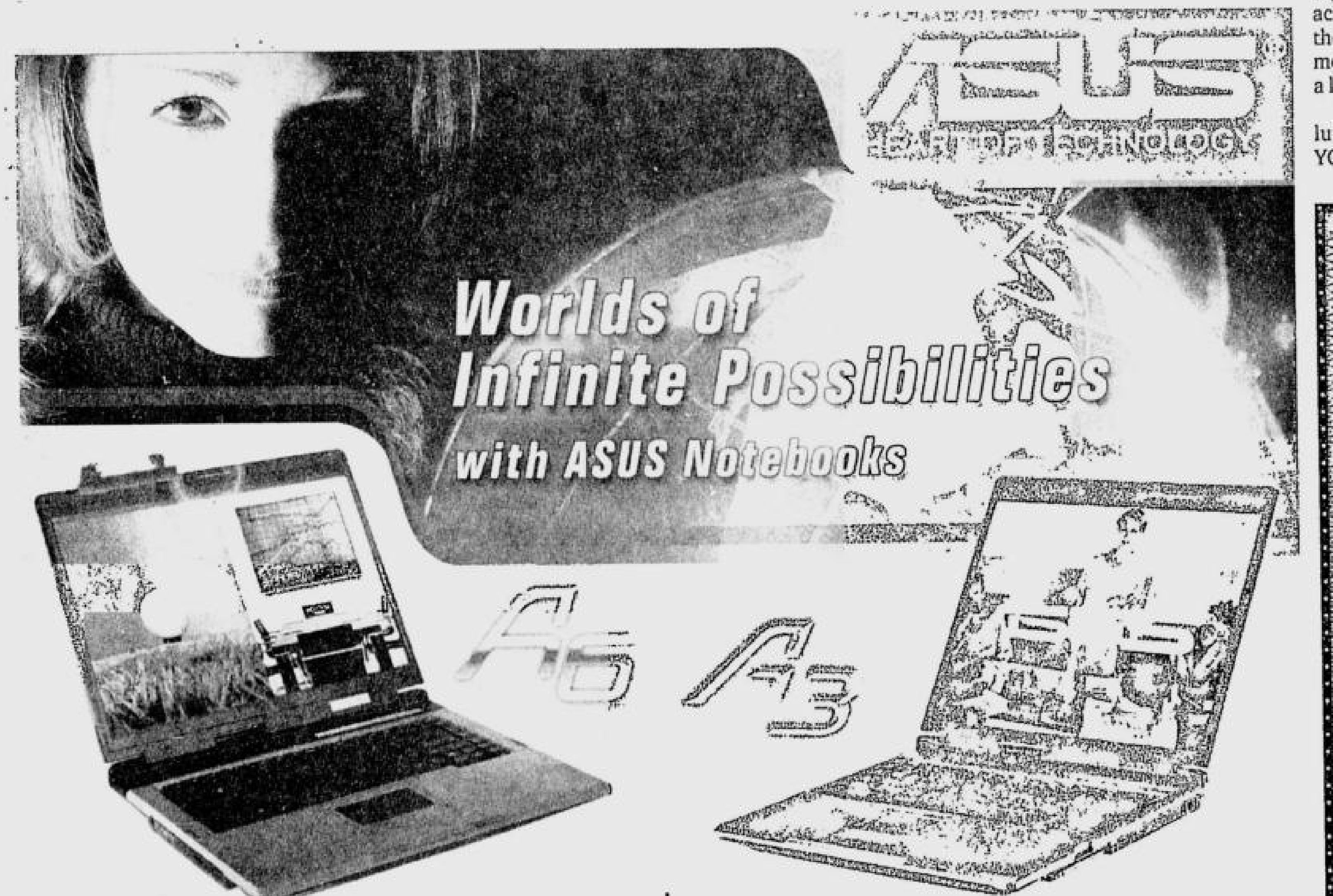
The military has completed its report on the probe but has declined senators' request to provide them a copy, saying it was up to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and President Macapagal-Arroyo to decide whether to release the report or not.

Meanwhile, Fr. Romeo Intengan, a Jesuit closely associated with National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales through the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, welcomed the government's action against militant party-list members of the House of Representatives.

"The government is exasperated because government funds are being used for rebellion, Intengan said in a telephone interview. "It just took time for the government to act... because they knew this was something big."

He said that while the leftist leaders were "above ground" and serving in Congress, they were also "cooperating with extremists."

With Blanche S. Rivera



Mobile Versatility & Value

- Intel™ Celeron at 1.6 GHz
- 256MB DDR2 RAM
- 40GB Hard Disk
- Built-in DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive
- 15" XGA LCD Display BIG DISPLAY
- Lithium-ion Battery Pack
- Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g
- Embedded Intel™ 855 GME VGA
- 1 x RJ45 LAN Jack for LAN Insert
- 1 x RJ11 Modern Jack for Phone Line
- 3-in-1 Smart Card Reader
- 2.85 Kg.

now only P39,900!

Taking Business Anywhere

- Intel™ Centrino at 1.73 GHz
- 256MB DDR RAM • 40GB Hard Disk
- 15" TFT Active LCD Display BIG DISPLAY
- Embedded Intel™ 855GM VGA
- DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive
- Windows XP (Home Edition)
- 3-in-1 Smart Card Reader
- ASUS Power 4 Gear Technology for Increased Battery Life
- Audio DJ/Intel™ Pro Wireless 802.11 b/g
- 4 x USB 2.0 Port • Trend PC-Cillin Anti-Virus
- 1 x RJ45 LAN Jack for LAN Insert
- 1 x RJ11 Modern Jack for Phone Line
- 8 Cell Battery • 2.5 Kg.

P69,900

[illegible] P5,825 x 12 mos.

0% interest

2 YEAR GLOBAL WARRANTY

SWEET DEALS FROM SINGAPORE AIRLINES

AIRFARES

SINGAPORE from US$218

MALAYSIA from US$258

INDONESIA from US$348

AUSTRALIA from US$438

SAN FRANCISCO / LOS ANGELES (non-Executive Economy Class) from US$788

EUROPE from US$858

PACKAGES

SINGAPORE from US$258 2 nights hotel

MALAYSIA from US$318 2 nights hotel

BALI from US$398 3 nights hotel

BANGKOK & SINGAPORE from US$398 3 nights hotel

JAKARTA from US$448 2 nights hotel

AUSTRALIA from US$588 3 nights hotel

For more information visit singaporeair.com.

A great way to fly SINGAPORE AIRLINES

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

AIRFARES Valid for purchase until 15 March 2006 (Singapore airfare for INSTANT PURCHASE only) Valid for departures until 30 April 2006 (with applicable surcharges for April departures) Discounts available for children below 12 years old (except for Singapore and Malaysia)

PACKAGES Valid for purchase until 15 March 2006 Valid for departures until 30 April 2006 (with applicable surcharges for April departures) Prices are based on adult twin-sharing accommodation. Single supplement surcharge applies. Discounts available for children below 12 years old

All prices quoted are per person based on roundtrip Economy Class travel and exclude taxes, fees and other surcharges. Minimum two (2) adults must travel together

Other terms and conditions apply.

For more information on the above rates, please call SIA Reservations at 756-8888 (for airfares), SIA Tours Desk 753-5151 to 52 or 756-8899 loc. 7001-7004 (for packages), or your travel agent.

First Naia 3 flight

THE GOVERNMENT plans a soft opening on March 31 of the new Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport which has remained unused due to a dispute with its would-be German operator, an official said Tuesday.

Liza Mascardo, Naia planning and projects manager, said the "soft opening" would see off a single Cebu Pacific flight to Hong Kong.

The multimillion-dollar terminal was supposed to open in 2002 but the government and Fraport AG had a falling out and the German airport operator then sought compensation after President Macapagal-Arroyo revoked its contract in 2003.

Terminal 3 was designed to handle 13 million passengers a year and was originally scheduled to open in late 2002. Its formal opening has been set for the middle of this year. *AFP*

For soft, flawlessly milky-white skin

Collagen Whitening Mask

The powerful combination of 100% pure collagen and Japan's favorite skin whitening ingredient intensively lightens dark spots on your face while deeply moisturizing dull, dry skin.

Results?
- Clarity for hyper-pigmented areas
- Evened-out skin tone over dark, blotchy areas
- Visibly whiter skin that's glowing with health
- Fresh, velvety, more radiant-looking

Welcome a brighter, more beautiful you. Call the Facial Care Centre now.

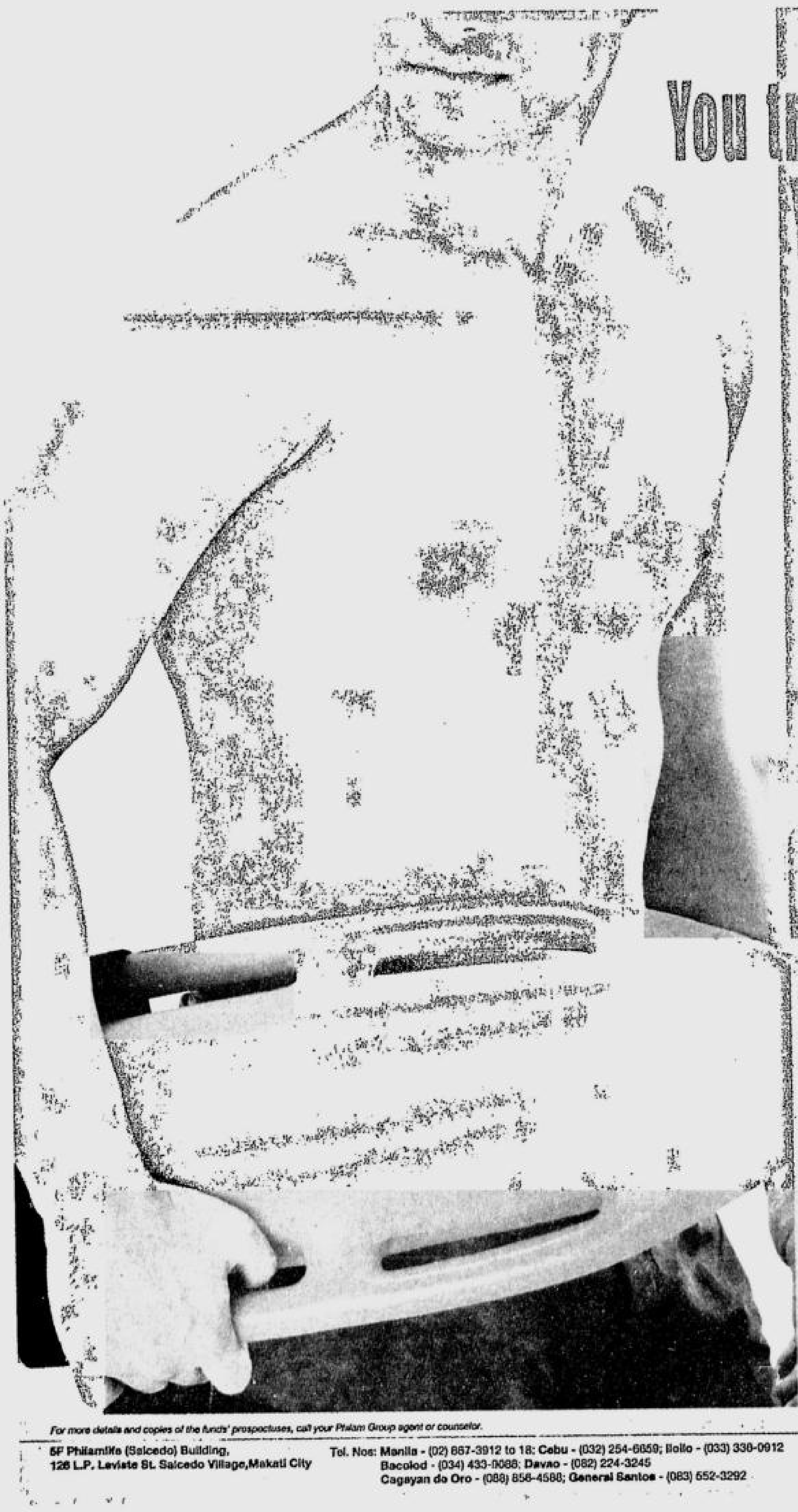
facial care CENTRE

CALL 892-SKIN (7546)

Where Beautiful Skin Happens

www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3404) CEBU (233-7631)


You trusted us with your life.
You can trust us with your money.

PAMI is a fund management company wholly owned by Philamlife, the largest insurance company in the country. It manages funds professionally through full-time managers who are focused on seizing market opportunities.

FUND MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE

FUNDS	MINIMUM PLACEMENT	2005 NET YIELD
Philam Strategic Growth Fund, Inc.	₱10,000.00	15.19%
Philam Fund, Inc.	₱10,000.00	14.78%
Philam Bond Fund, Inc.	₱5,000.00	12.28%
Philam Dollar Bond Fund, Inc.	US$2,000.00	8.34%
GSIS Mutual Fund, Inc.	₱5,000.00	13.85%

Past performances are not indicative of future results. The funds' performance may fluctuate.

SOLID FINANCIAL BACKUP

You can bank on its stability since PAMI is also a member-company of American International Group, Inc. (AIG), world leaders in insurance and financial services.

OUTSTANDING REPUTATION

The organization's resiliency amid changes in the industry is the backbone of PAMI's reputation as a powerhouse fund management company.

PRODUCT INNOVATION

The company continuously develops and provides strategic investment options through mutual funds that perfectly suit the client's needs, given any situation or time.

HIGH FLEXIBILITY

Depending on your need or requirement, you can actually develop a customized mutual fund portfolio and transfer portions of your investment from one fund to another.

Over and above all these advantages is PAMI's commitment to the highest ethical standard while working hard to make the investors' money grow.

[illegible]

*Source: Business World Top 1000 Corporations; 2005 TOP LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

www.philamfunds.com

PHILAM ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC.

For more details and copies of the funds' prospectuses, call your Philam Group agent or counselor.

5F Philamlife (Salcedo) Building,
126 L.P. Leviste St. Salcedo Village, Makati City

Tel. Nos: Manila - (02) 867-3912 to 18; Cebu - (032) 254-6659; Iloilo - (033) 338-0912
Bacolod - (034) 433-0088; Davao - (082) 224-3245
Cagayan de Oro - (088) 856-4588; General Santos - (083) 552-3292

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services:
Life and General Insurance • Property & Casualty Insurance • Health Care Management • Pre-Need Plans • Banking • Mutual Funds • Property Development • Credit Cards • Business Process Outsourcing • Bancassurance • Financial Advisory Service

AIG. A Member of American International Group, Inc.

Tough, sleek and fast.
Sturdy, space-efficient, super-speed scanners you can afford.

Canon
Delighting You Always

CANOSCAN LIDE 25
- 1200 X 2400 dpi
- 3 EZ buttons (Scan, Copy, File, Email)
- Multiphoto Scan

CANOSCAN 3000EX
- 1200 X 2400 dpi
- 3 EZ buttons (Scan, Copy, File, Email)
- Advanced Z lid (up to 5cm)

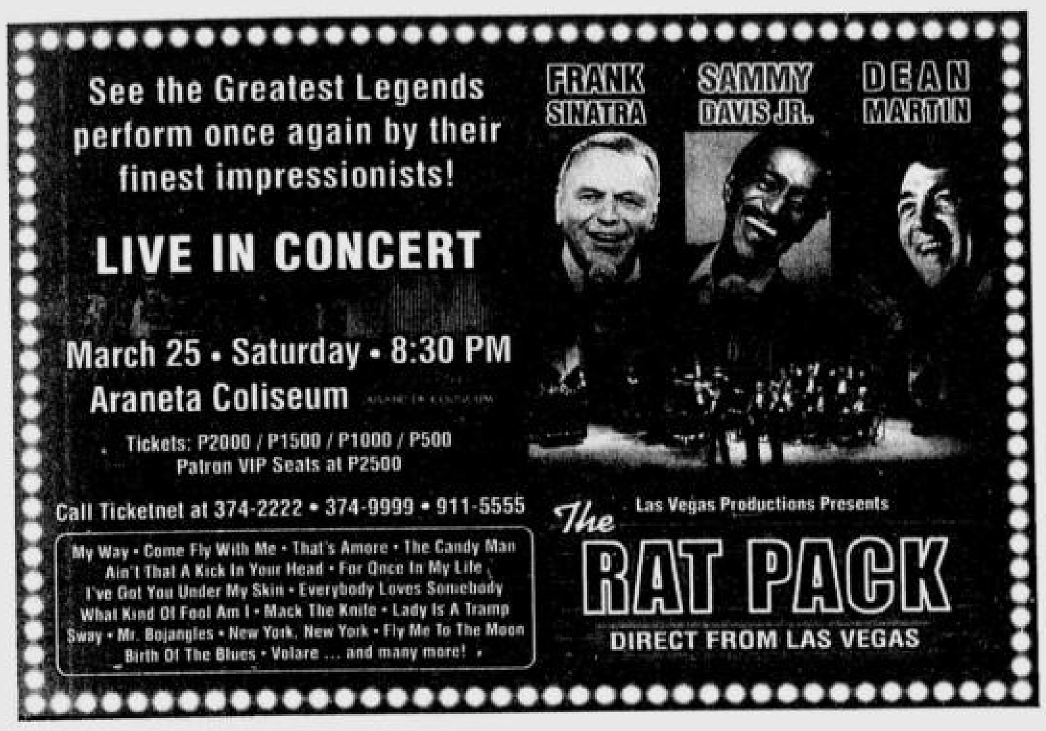
LIDE 500F
- 2400 X 4800 dpi
- 4 EZ buttons (Scan, Copy, PDF, Email)
- Film Scanning

CANOSCAN LIDE 60
- 1200 X 2400 dpi
- Upright Scanning
- 6 Sec Preview Speed

CANOSCAN 8850F
- 4800 X 9600 dpi
- 6-Line CCD Scanning
- Canon's new Super Toxic Lens
- Film Scanning

CANON MARKETING (PHILIPPINES), INC.
[illegible] Email: info@canon.com.ph

Huge cross to rise at S Leyte landslide site


See the Greatest Legends perform once again by their finest impressionists!
LIVE IN CONCERT
March 25 • Saturday • 8:30 PM
Araneta Coliseum
Tickets: P2000 / P1500 / P1000 / P500
Patron VIP Seats at P2500
Call Ticketnet at 374-2222 • 374-9999 • 911-5555
My Way • Come Fly With Me • That's Amore • The Candy Man • Ain't That A Kick In Your Head • For Once In My Life • I've Got You Under My Skin • Everybody Loves Somebody • What Kind Of Fool Am I • Mack The Knife • Lady Is A Tramp • Sway • Mr. Bojangles • New York, New York • Fly Me To The Moon • Birth Of The Blues • Volare ... and many more!
FRANK SINATRA
SAMMY DAVIS JR.
DEAN MARTIN
Las Vegas Productions Presents
The RAT PACK
DIRECT FROM LAS VEGAS

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ST. BERNARD – A HUGE CROSS will be planted on Friday at the site of the village of Guinsaugon here which was buried by a landslide on Feb. 17, killing some 1,000 residents.

Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias said the provincial government would lead the formal blessing and planting of a huge cross at the Guinsaugon disaster site which would be turned into a memorial park cum sanctuary.

Lerias said a confetti of flowers will rain down from a helicopter at about the same time that the cross to be put up at the center of the landslide area will be blessed by a priest with holy water.

The search for survivors in Guinsaugon officially ended last Friday, a week after the killer mudslide struck the area.

"The search and rescue phase is over. The decision was reached upon the recommendation of the experts. They feel it will take a miracle to find survivors; the chances are almost zero," Lerias had told the INQUIRER.

As of Feb. 28, some 152 bodies had been recovered while 972 remained missing and feared dead. Some 3,314 residents were still at the evacuation centers.

Rescue volunteers, local and foreign, had pulled out by Monday. Only about 100 Filipino soldiers have remained at the disaster area for retrieval operations and to secure the site which was declared off limits to civilians.

A 90-man Indonesian medical contingent will stay for two more weeks to attend to the medical needs of the survivors.

Lerias said classes would remain suspended at schools that were turned into evacuation centers.

On Tuesday, the Department of Education said it would extend scholarships to 74 schoolchildren who were orphaned by the mudslide.

DepEd Officer-in-Charge Fe Hidalgo said she had directed DepEd Region VIII Director Sol Matugas to personally supervise the implementation of the scholarship grants.

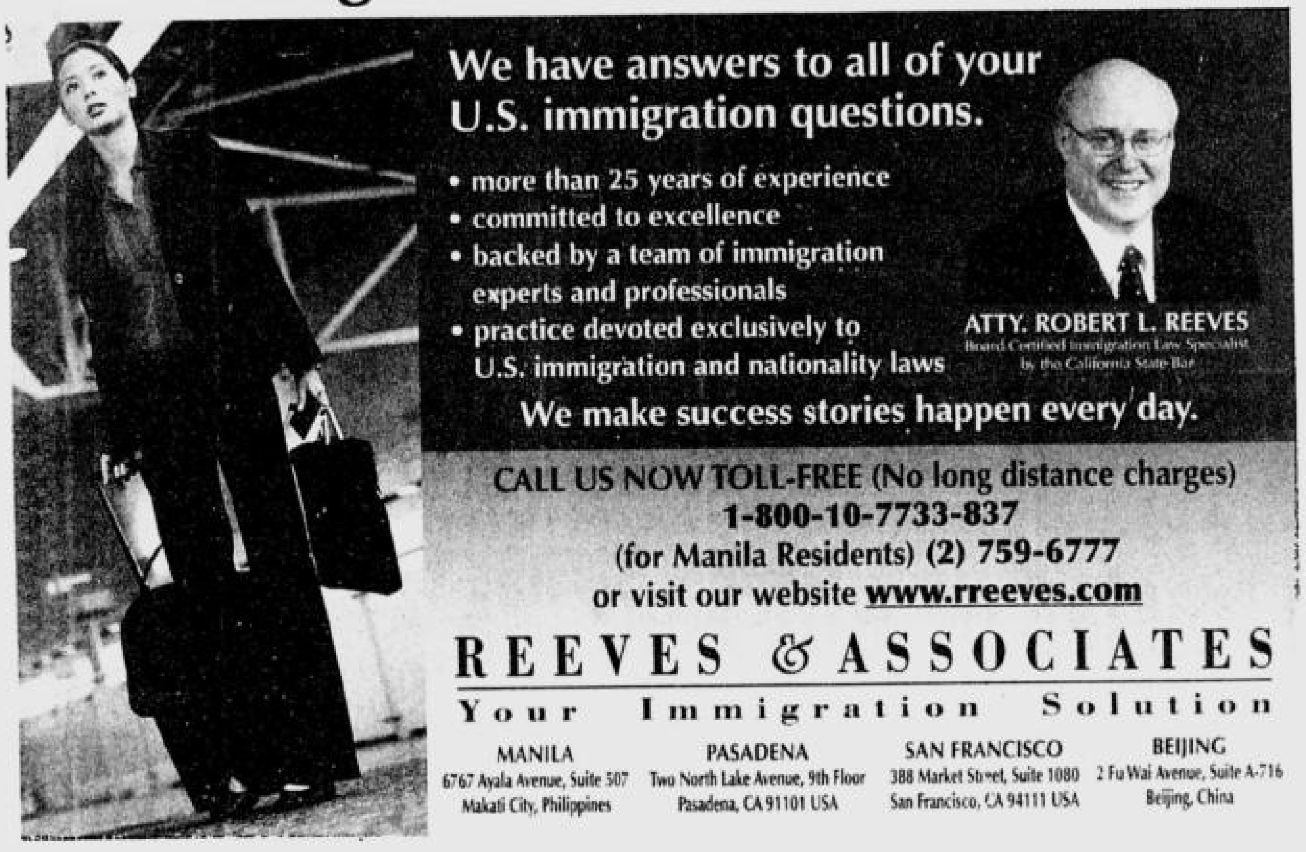
The DepEd chief also said the survivors would likewise undergo stress debriefing under the DepEd student health program in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company (Metrobank) has donated P5 million for the victims of the Leyte mudslide.

Meanwhile, residents in at least five villages in the province will be resettled because of fears of more landslides.

Lerias said geologists have surveyed 11 villages that were evacuated after the Guinsaugon landslide.

With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Alcuin Papa and AP


Searching for the American Dream?
We have answers to all of your U.S. immigration questions.
- more than 25 years of experience
- committed to excellence
- backed by a team of immigration experts and professionals
- practice devoted exclusively to U.S. immigration and nationality laws
ATTY. ROBERT L. REEVES
Board Certified Immigration Law Specialist by the California State Bar
We make success stories happen every day.
CALL US NOW TOLL-FREE (No long distance charges)
1-800-10-7733-837
(for Manila Residents) (2) 759-6777
or visit our website www.rreeves.com
REEVES & ASSOCIATES
Your Immigration Solution
MANILA
6767 Ayala Avenue, Suite 507
Makati City, Philippines
PASADENA
Two North Lake Avenue, 9th Floor
Pasadena, CA 91101 USA
SAN FRANCISCO
388 Market Street, Suite 1080
San Francisco, CA 94111 USA
BEIJING
2 Fu Wai Avenue, Suite A-716
Beijing, China

25-yr RP governance roadmap is unveiled

By Leti Boniol

AMID THE STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY, a former finance secretary who now chairs the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) yesterday called on every citizen to do their part as he presented a roadmap that envisions improving governance in the country in the next 25 years.

"Pag-ibig sa Tinubuang Lupa (Love for the Native Land): Philippines 2030 Roadmap" is a management system that includes responsible citizenship, a lean and mean government, strengthened "drivers of change" and good governance.

The roadmap evolved from the growing consensus that there is a lack of genuine love for, and identification with, the country.

During a conference Tuesday of businessmen, professionals and local government executives at the Manila Peninsula, Jesus Estanislao challenged Filipinos to "stand up and be counted as responsible citizens."

"A time of emergency calls for a sense of urgency," he said, as he challenged families, schools and business enterprises to stand up and be counted as the "promoters of values and virtues that would make every Pinoy ask always in every circumstance what we – all of us, each one of us – can do for our country."

He called on "every sector to serve as coordinators of organizations that could plot road maps of their own so they could contribute to the common good of the country."

He also asked every local government unit to "become the beacons of light and hope."

Endorsing the roadmap, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president and Jaro (Iloilo) archbishop Angel Lagdameo said, "We need a new breed of leaders," as he asserted that "more than a few leaders act more like a band of thieves."

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz spelled out the measures that the Philippine defense system is carrying out to ensure that it eventually becomes "insulated from politics."

Among these are a multi-year defense planning system, improved operations, intelligence and training and a readiness capability.

With a report from Cyril Bonabente

MAGIC SING XTREME™ HANDHELD VIDEOKE MICROPHONE
"SA TOTOO LANG, XTREME MAGIC SING ANG GUSTO KO!"
- MANNY PACQUIAO
THE ORIGINAL! MAGIC SING INTERNATIONAL EDITION
THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION!
ver.8.0 ver.9.0 ver.6.0
XTREME Magic Sing products available nationwide!
SM Appliance Center • SUPER SM • SM Record Bar • Duty Free Fiestamall • Ambassador Appliances, Inc. • Anson Emporium • Mail & More Business Centers • VideoCity • Rustan's Department Store • JCSPICE • Park Square 1 • SHOWISE • RADIO CITY • PRECISION • SD Sound Dimension • Crossings • Hotel Rembrandt • kabayancentral.com • METRO • 5th AVE • DEECO • COSTULESS • makro • Gillamac's • GAISANO Main • Country Mall • GAISANO South Group • White Gold Club • GAISANO • EVER Department Store • Music Zone • Magic Appliance Center • ADDESSA • Optimum Trader Currency Specialist • BHF CORPORATION • EMCOR • Mike's Dept. Store • M&D MARKETING • OCAMPO'S • CONPINCO • IMPERIAL Appliance Plaza
METRO MANILA DEALERS
QUIAPO / BINONDO AJD Electronics 736-3880 • Armstrong Electronics 733-2849 • Bog's Electronics 733-2386 • Delta Appliances 533-4053 • Gemetric 314-8871 • Hi-Mark Sales 736-1882 • J&R 242-1576 • Jems Appliances 703-1024 • JMD Electronics 736-3880 • Joy's Electronics 734-9904 • Just 734-1819 • MAC Audio/Video 309-4472 • Millennium Electronics 314-8508 • OK Electronic 733-9891 • Richland 733-1706 • Santech Electronics 734-1821 • W & M Marketing 735-4274 • Worldwide Audio & Video 241-3446 • Zoe Enterprise 734-0731 • MALATE / MAKATI / PARAÑAQUE / PASIG / MUNTINLUPA A. Salonga 400-4492 • Image Video 526-1016 • Sohan Audio & Video Int'l 527-1171 • Phasetron Audio Systems 819-7372 • M@RS Trading 776-8528 • U R Household Shop 687-0400 • Alabang Marketing 533-4653
PROVINCIAL DEALERS
BAGUIO • Rajat Electronics (074) 444-9340 • BANGUED Mike's Superstore • BATAAN Ocampo's Mega Store Balanga (047) 237-2643, Dinalupihan • BICOL Multibrand (054) 473-7262 • BOHOL Island City Mall (038) 411-3880 • CAVITE V. Divina Enterprises (046) 890-0399 • CEBU A. Salonga (032) 232-5378, M. Miranda (032) 262-3619 • DAVAO Funtronics (082) 227-0545 • ILOCOS NORTE Ricafort Trading (077) 770-3410 • LA UNION BHF Corp • National Bazaar • Video City • LAOAG Family Trade House • New India Dept. Store (077) 772 0679, (077) 772-0478 • Allied Marketing (077) 770-3257 • LAGUNA MSC Data Exchange (049) 562-7172 • LEYTE RL Appliance (053) 321-2636 / 7442 Sogod Branch 382-3029, Baybay Branch 563-8113, Ormoc City Branch 561-4326, Naval Biliran Branch 500-9710, Maasin City Branch 381-3861 • LUCENA Recio (042) 373-7777 • Normel Marketing (042) 710-4817 • OLONGAPO Ocampo's Olongapo, Inc. (047) 222-4444, (047) 223-3000, (047) 222-2548 • PANGASINAN Ricafort Trading (075) 522-7112 • PAMPANGA Downtown (045) 900-0225, Ocampo's Emporium (045) 963-0084, Ocampo's Jewelry (045) 888-2649 • S. COTABATO D' Sunala Record Bar General Santos (083) 553-5073, Koronadal (083) 228-3844 • TUGUEGARAO New Tuguegarao Bombay Bazaar (078) 844-2560, (078) 846-2259 • VIGAN Family Trade House • Video City • ZAMBALES Ocampo's Subic (047) 232-2930
EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY:
THE ASTRA GROUP, INC. G/F Richbelt Tower, 17 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel: 72-MAGIC (62442), 726-9999, 726-2443, 726-2449 www.magicsing.com.ph
MANUFACTURED IN KOREA BY: ET ENTER TECH ENTER TECH CO. LTD.

INQ7 marks 5th year with new online tools

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

INQ7 INTERACTIVE, WHICH CELebrated its fifth anniversary on Feb. 27, is making a bid to reach even more readers through new online tools like blogs and podcasts.

The INQ7@5 anniversary site at www.inq7.net/year5 gives readers a preview of the kind of interactive tools they can expect from INQ7 this year.

In pushing the growth of online journalism in the Philippines, INQ7.net's goal is to embrace new technology without forgetting the basics of good journalism, said INQ7.net editor in chief JV Rufino.

INQ7.net executive editor Leo Magno said online tools such as blogs and podcasts would allow INQ7.net to reach out to a new generation of readers, while stressing that these services will have to be adapted to the needs of a news organization.

"We have to tap that medium and increase our readership base beyond what you see on print, TV and all. We could tap an entirely new generation online," he said.

A blog is a website updated on a regular basis. Its most common use is as an online journal or diary available for public viewing.

A podcast is a web feed of audio or video files placed on the Internet for anyone to download. Its essence is about creating content for an audience that wants to listen when they want, where they want and how they want.

The INQ7.net anniversary site emphasizes the role of user-generated content, allowing readers to publish their own articles and post comments on stories using the blog. Articles and comments from readers, however, will not be posted immediately on the blog but sent to a moderator.

The site also wants to encourage readers to create their own video clips and audio greetings that could be included in the INQ7 anniversary podcast.

To stress that high-end equipment is not necessary, the video clips and audio for the podcast were taken using camera phones. INQ7 officials allowed the video fo their anniversary greetings to be taken with mobile phones.

INQ7.net will also unveil in 2006 international and localized editions of the site that would target different countries and communities, Rufino said.

Quirino's death marked

THE 50TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY today of former President Elpidio R. Quirino will be marked with a simple ceremony at 8:30 a.m. at the South Cemetery.

Quirino's daughter, Vicky Quirino Delgado, and granddaughter Cory Quirino will lead the commemorative rites that will include a wreath-laying and a presentation by the Quirino High School.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, chair of the Liberal Party, will represent the government. Quirino, the sixth President of the country, was one of the founders of the Liberal Party.

Quirino, who was from Vigan, Ilocos Sur, succeeded President Manuel Roxas and served from 1948 to 1953. He died on Feb. 29, 1956.

QUIRINO

Quirino has been called the "Father of Philippine Industrialization," having designed the economic blueprint for the country. The Central Bank was created and the Ambuklao and Maria Cristina power plants set up during his term.

One of his first acts as President was to re-establish ties with Japan and initiate steps to create the Union of Pacific Nations.

SC defers action on 1017

From page A1

justification for the President's action on Friday last week. The court opted not to grant the request for the issuance of a TRO until it had heard all arguments, Panganiban said.

Senator Arroyo said his sources told him that the President had another order "under way" after she succeeded in "emasculating" the Senate through Executive Order No. 464 and frightened media owners with Proclamation No. 1017.

Worse, Arroyo said these orders "were planned in advance" for the "long term" but were being implemented in a calibrated manner that he described as "presidential terrorism."

The senator said "464 and 1017 are not spur of the moment presidential issuances. Both were planned in advance. Our own info is there's a third one coming against an enemy we don't know yet because, you know, it's the President who chooses her enemies."

Arroyo said that Malacañang was emboldened to issue this supposed third order because there had been no strong public backlash against Proclamation No. 1017 and Executive Order No. 464, which bars officials from appearing in congressional hearings without the President's approval.

Media owners frightened

He also noted that media owners had "become frightened" by Malacañang's threat to take over their businesses.

"The thing is that the Palace will not stop. Malacañang thinks that they are winning. The Senate has been paralyzed. The media, for all the braggadocio of the owners, are frightened," Arroyo said.

Arroyo said that the orders were planned after EO 464 was issued in September last year.

"How would we ever know that 1017 (was) directed against the media? Nobody knew it. But it's not really (about) warrantless arrests, it's media. The one that has been affected so much (by 1017) is the media," he said.

"Nobody predicted that. Nobody knew it but now it's very clear. They're not after (Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin) Beltran or (Bayan Muna Rep.) Satur Ocampo. They're after media," he added.

Arroyo said he did not expect Malacañang to lift the state of national emergency any time soon.

Constitution is no more

"They will not lift it. They're winning from their point of view. You should quit when you're ahead but they're not quitting. The Constitution is no more as far as Gloria is concerned," he said.

"Gloria, she does not care about how many enemies she has. She doesn't care about winning friends. She cares only about acquiring enemies. Here in the Senate, Gloria has no friends," he said.

Arroyo also said that media owners should stand their ground against pressure from the Palace.

Chief Justice Panganiban told reporters that the magistrates had agreed that the high court must resolve the issue immediately because it involved basic issues, including the freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

"No TRO because due process requires that in significant cases, you must hear the other side. A TRO is issued in order to maintain status quo. If the status quo has changed, I would have to convene the court between now and Tuesday," Panganiban said.

"First, we know that there is some urgency so the court required the respondents to submit a comment within a non-extendible period of five days," Panganiban said.

Highest priority

"Freedom of speech and expression are quite very important, the highest priority in the Bill of Rights, so any alleged violation would require attention of the court. We are giving it the highest priority," he said.

As of Monday, four petitions had been received in the Supreme Court, including a challenge by the Daily Tribune, which was raided by police on Saturday.

The fourth case was filed by former Sen. Loren Legarda yesterday.

Legarda said directives issued by Ms Arroyo had "invaded almost all freedoms and rights guaranteed under the 1987 Constitution in the guise of suppressing acts of terrorism and lawless violence in the country."

These directives, she stressed, "unnecessarily and without any legal purpose drag into its ambit the suppression of the constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and civil liberties, among them the freedom of expression and its cognate rights."

Panganiban said the court would consolidate all these cases along with those yet to be filed into one suit.

Guidelines for broadcast

Also yesterday, the National Telecommunications Commission said it would allow the main umbrella organization for the broadcast media to draw up its own guidelines on news coverage during the prevailing emergency.

NTC chief Ronald Solis said in an interview that guidelines formulated by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) would be adopted by state regulators and would be applied uniformly to all broadcast media facilities.

"The NTC will enforce these guidelines even on non-KBP members," Solis said in an interview. "If they don't accede to it, we'll still enforce it."

Government is prohibiting media entities from airing stories that incite sedition, revealing troop movements during combat operations, and airing propaganda.

Solis said the KBP would define the parameters.

He said that while the NTC had no way of directly sanctioning foreign broadcast outfits that might violate government regulations, his office was coordinating with the the organization of cable television operators to see how the guidelines could be enforced.

"But if it's impossible to regulate, we won't do that," he said.

Solis pointed out that the NTC had no power to shut down broadcast outfits under Proclamation No. 1017, but added that regulators already had such existing powers under their charter.

The NTC chief also stressed that the government would not impose more stringent control mechanisms to muzzle the press, but would instead only implement existing guidelines, including an order promulgated in 1989 used to shut down radio stations that were found to have aired details on troop movements during a coup attempt against the government. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Tara V. Quismundo, Cynthia D. Balana, Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ARROYO

Poverty grim reminder ...

From page A1

people are likely to become involuntary victims of selfish interest," he had said, adding:

"The situation is a challenge to magnanimously prove that your patriotism and concern for the poor and the suffering are of higher value than personal survival."

Repentance

Lagdameo said the Christian message of the Lenten season—an invitation to repentance—was particularly significant in the light of the current political situation.

"It is a call to transformation," he said. "Considering the social, economic and political crises we are in, the vision of change and transformation becomes a growing passion and obsession."

Lagdameo also said the message of Jesus Christ rising from the dead on Easter Sunday, according to Catholic belief, should transcend the spiritual and result in a "transformation in our economic, social and political life."

"Lent as a call to transformation means that out of the repentance of believers in the Gospel, the slum dwellings are transformed to permanent shelters, the poor are given health benefits, the marginalized are offered liberating education, the exploited are given dignified employment and malnourished children sufficient food," he said.

Lagdameo described the transformation of society as "the fruit of repentance and reform of life."

'Truly moral society'

In even more concrete terms, Lagdameo said, a renewal of moral values should mean "converting the energies that one uses for graft and corruption into energies for better public service."

"We hope that from the 'ashes' of political crisis and corrupted institutions will resurrect a transformed nation, a truly moral society, built up in truth, justice, freedom and love," he said.

Marlboro
Marlboro
₱1 50
PER STICK
Suggested Retail Price

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

The Republic of the Philippines

hereby announces

TERMS OF THE 5-YEAR AND 7-YEAR BENCHMARK BONDS

5-YEAR BENCHMARK BOND
ISIN: PIBD0511C622
PRINCIPAL ACCEPTED: PhP 30b
PRINCIPAL SUBMITTED: PhP 34b
SIZE OF BENCHMARK BOND: PhP 34b

7-YEAR BENCHMARK BOND
ISIN: PIBD0713C438
PRINCIPAL ACCEPTED: PhP 15b
PRINCIPAL SUBMITTED: PhP 20b
SIZE OF BENCHMARK BOND: PhP 17b

THE FINAL CLEARING YIELDS FOR EACH SERIES OF ELIGIBLE BONDS ARE AS SHOWN:

ISIN	Maturity Date	Coupon Rate	Final Clearing Yield
PIBD1009B084	2/25/2009	16.50%	8.05%
PIBD0509D536	4/6/2009	11.875%	8.10%
PIBD0409E155	5/12/2009	10.75%	8.10%
PIBD1009E090	5/27/2009	14.625%	8.05%
PIBD0509F543	6/17/2009	12.00%	8.10%
PIBD0409G162	7/14/2009	10.875%	8.05%
PIID0509G037	7/16/2009	11.75%	8.05%
PIBD0409H170	8/4/2009	10.50%	8.10%
PIBD0509H550	8/12/2009	11.875%	8.10%
PIBD1009I103	9/2/2009	15.00%	8.10%
PIB1009IA118	9/23/2009	15.50%	8.10%
PIBD1009J120	10/14/2009	15.125%	8.05%
PIBD0509J569	10/28/2009	12.375%	8.10%
PIBD1009K137	11/25/2009	15.00%	8.15%
PIBD1009L149	12/23/2009	14.875%	8.15%
PIBD0510A571	1/27/2010	11.50%	8.15%
PIBD1010B153	2/3/2010	14.75%	8.10%
PIBD1010C161	3/2/2010	14.625%	8.10%
PID1010CA170	3/30/2010	13.875%	8.15%
PIBD0510D589	4/7/2010	11.50%	8.15%
PIBD1010D188	4/27/2010	13.875%	8.15%
PIBD0710E348	5/8/2010	11.875%	8.15%
PIBD1010E196	5/25/2010	14.25%	8.20%
PIBD1010F202	6/22/2010	14.125%	8.20%
PIBD1010G210	7/20/2010	14.50%	8.20%
PIBD0510G595	7/21/2010	10.75%	8.20%
PIBD1010H228	8/10/2010	14.625%	8.20%
PIBD1010I236	9/1/2010	14.625%	8.20%
PIID0510H043	9/8/2010	10.625%	8.20%
PIBD0510I600	9/22/2010	10.875%	8.20%
PIBD0510L615	12/1/2010	9.375%	8.25%
PIBD1010L261	12/21/2010	17.50%	8.25%
PIBD1011A278	1/18/2011	17.50%	8.25%
PIBD0711A354	1/22/2011	11.00%	8.25%
PIBD0711D360	4/15/2011	12.00%	8.30%
PIBD0711G376	7/22/2011	12.00%	8.35%
PIBD1011J288	10/11/2011	16.50%	8.35%
PIBD1012D291	4/25/2012	13.00%	8.45%
PIBD0712D395	4/28/2012	11.50%	8.45%
PIBD0712H408	8/18/2012	11.375%	8.50%
PIBD1012J302	10/17/2012	12.125%	8.50%
PIBD0712K413	11/17/2012	10.50%	8.50%
PIBD0713A421	1/5/2013	9.00%	8.55%

This announcement is not an offer or a solicitation of offers. The Invitation is made solely pursuant, and subject to, the Offering Circular. When you make your investment decision, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in the Offering Circular and on any further announcement s or communication that may be expressly authorized by the Republic. The Republic has not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. The Invitation does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not permitted by law or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. A complete list of final clearing yields can also be found on the Bureau of Treasury's website, www.treasury.gov.ph.

2 Pinoys killed in S Arabia

TWO FILIPINOS COMMUTING TO WORK were killed by crossfire in Saudi Arabia as security forces in Riyadh clashed with suspects attempting to attack the world's largest oil processing plant, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday.

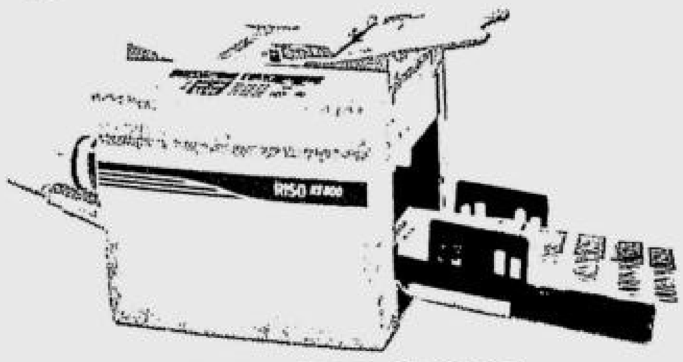
Construction workers Abel Monterela and Felix Lorando were killed Monday by bullets that hit their shuttle bus as it passed through the Rawda district while Saudi police were conducting a manhunt for militants, Romulo said in a statement.

Three other Filipinos on the same bus – Rodel Miranda, Salvador Bibon and Jimmy Pactor – were wounded, Romulo said.

Saudi authorities said they killed five suspects after assaulting the militants' hideout in the Al-Yarmuk section of Riyadh.

An al-Qaida statement posted on the Internet claimed responsibility for the attack. *AFP*

TRADE UP!
For only P 99,990.00



RISO KS800
Fast. Economical. Durable. User Friendly. Efficient.

Get a brand new Multifunction Copier/Scanner/Printer or a Color Laser Printer IN EXCHANGE for your old copier, printer, or duplicator, when you invest in a RISO KS800 Digital Duplicator for only P 99,990.00!

This Trade-Up! Promo is also available when you opt to invest in the higher RISO Models - CR1630 at P159,900.00 or the RN2050 at P219,990.00.

Order now! Limited offer until March 31, 2006.

KONICA MINOLTA PagePro 1380MF Copier Scanner Printer
KONICA MINOLTA magicolor 2400W Laser Printer

See the KS800 in action.
DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS 2006
Discover Options. Create Possibilities.
March 2 to 4, 2006, 10 am to 7 pm
Quezon Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0591, Series of 2006.

COPYLANDIA
The Total Document Solutions Provider
718 Bumatay Street, Mandaluyong City 1550
Call 7476-888 www.copylandia.com

With the widest network of branches to serve you!

ANGELES	(045) 887 2499	CEBU	(032) 232-4522	LIPA	(043) 757 0235
BACOLOD	(034) 433-2559	DAGUPAN	(075) 515-3106	NAGA	(054) 473-4935
BAGUIO	(074) 446-5356	DAVAO	(082) 224-0793	PUERTO PRINCESA	(048) 434-8610
BUTUAN	(085) 341-7742	DUMAGUETE	(035) 225-4759	TACLOBAN	(053) 321-7610
CABANATUAN	(044) 600-0377	GENERAL SANTOS	(083) 553-9057	TAGBILARAN	(038) 411-2396
CALAMBA	(049) 545-7284	ILIGAN	(063) 221-3713	TUGUEGARAO	(078) 846-2762
CAGAYAN DE ORO	(088) 857-4272	ILOILO	(033) 320-7488	ZAMBOANGA	(062) 991-2446

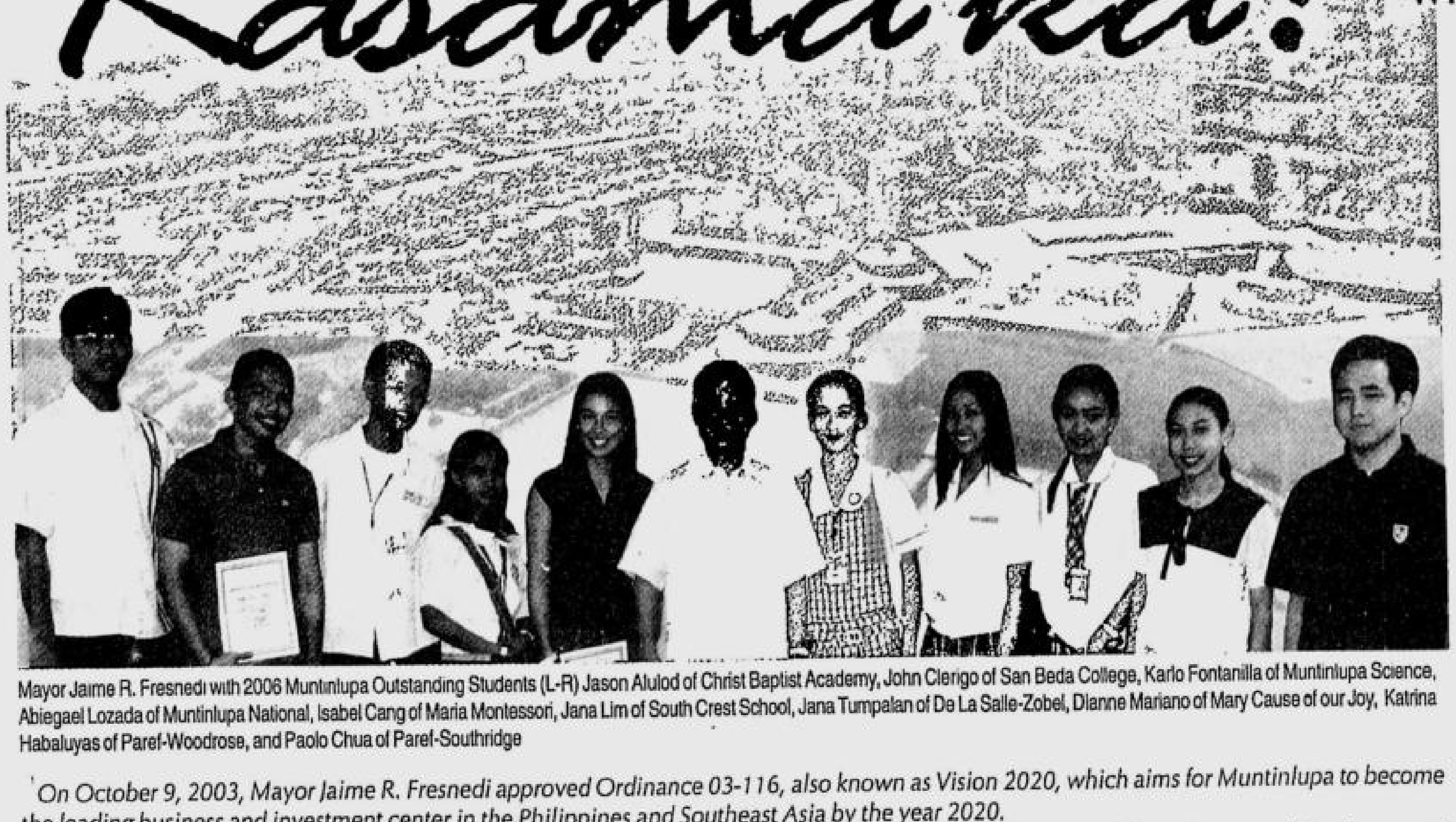
March 1, 2006

Kasama ka!

Muntinlupa City 11th Anniversary

Kasama ka!

Muntinlupa marks 11th year of cityhood with a vision of more jobs, better lives for Muntinlupeños



Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi with 2006 Muntinlupa Outstanding Students (L-R) Jason Alulod of Christ Baptist Academy, John Clerigo of San Beda College, Karlo Fontanilla of Muntinlupa Science, Abiegael Lozada of Muntinlupa National, Isabel Cang of Maria Montessori, Jana Lim of South Crest School, Jana Tumpalan of De La Salle-Zobel, Dianne Mariano of Mary Cause of our Joy, Katrina Habaluyas of Paref-Woodrose, and Paolo Chua of Paref-Southridge

On October 9, 2003, Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi approved Ordinance 03-116, also known as Vision 2020, which aims for Muntinlupa to become the leading business and investment center in the Philippines and Southeast Asia by the year 2020.

Today is another milestone for Muntinlupa as it celebrates its 11th year as a City with the promise of bringing more jobs, improved infrastructure, higher quality of education and better lives to its constituents based on the Vision 2020 template created by Mayor Fresnedi and the people of this City.

Today's festive theme "Vision 2020: Kasama Ka!" reveals the City Government's commitment to improve the lives of Muntinlupeños by making the City a hub for businesses both here and abroad.

The reason for bringing out the full potentials of the City is simply to at least make Muntinlupa the most livable and competitive area for both investors and the people, with a standard of living comparable to Asia's leading cities.

With Mayor Fresnedi's Eight-Point Program of Governance successfully improving the lives of many Muntinlupeños—literally making Muntinlupa the Most Improved City in the Philippines according to the Asian Institute of Management—this City is getting ready to take to new heights with Vision 2020.

Fulfillment of Vision 2020 promises more opportunities for employment; a higher quality of education in accordance with international standards; better health services; improved infrastructure, recreational areas and convenient surroundings to live in—in short, better lives for all Muntinlupenos!

These dreams are now being realized with high-profile infrastructure works such as the Bayanan Bayview and Civic Park, a Senior Citizens' Center and Renewal Home, a Sports Complex in Tunasan, as well as continuing road improvements and school building constructions around the City.

Fresnedi likewise blessed today the Muntinlupa City Technical Institute in cooperation with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to provide various vocational courses and develop the skills of the Muntinlupeño in anticipation of the industries investing in this City.

Another 11th Anniversary highlight is the awarding of the winners for the Search for Philippine Doll and Produktong Munti (Muntinlupa Product) which aims to develop cultural icons for the country as well as for this City, as well as the annual recognition of the City's Top 11 Taxpayers, Muntinlupa City's "partners in progress."

The City will likewise recognize Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye and former president Fidel V. Ramos, who are the Founding Fathers of Muntinlupa Cityhood.

Together, Muntinlupa moves as one as it takes on the challenge to be the leading City in the country and Southeast Asia in the next 14 years. Everyone, from the leaders to the people living in the farthest corners of the City, has an important part to do, and we can do it! Let us all work towards Vision 2020—*Muntinlupeño*. ***Kasama ka!***

MUNTINLUPA
VISION 2020
Kasama ka!

Schedule of Activities
11th City Charter Day

Inauguration of Muntinlupa City Technical Institute and Awarding of Winners: Philippine Doll and Produktong MuntiDesign Competitions
9:00 AM, Muntinlupa City Technical Institute
(JRF-TESDA Center), San Guillermo, Putatan

State of the City Address
11th City Charter Day Celebration
5:00 PM, City Quadrangle, Putatan

Fish in Sorsogon safe – BFAR

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE LATEST TESTS CONDUCTED BY THE Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources showed that fish caught in waters off Sorsogon contained low levels of mercury and were safe for human consumption.

Belinda S. Raymundo, chief of BFAR's fisheries testing laboratory, said technicians examined not only water samples but also samples comprising at least 14 species of fish found in the coastal areas of Bagacay, Rizal, Barcelona and Prieto Diaz.

"The samples analyzed (had mercury levels of) 0.2 parts per million and within the standard limit of 0.5 parts per million (ppm) and are therefore safe for human consumption," said Raymundo.

She said this was the fifth test conducted by BFAR in the area after mining effluents, including cyanide, from a mine operated by the Australian company Lafayette on Albay's Rapu-Rapu island spilled into the sea in October last year. The previous BFAR tests showed mercury content within the allowable limits of .002 ppm for water and 0.5 ppm for fish.

Company officials maintained that Lafayette did not use mercury in its operations and this was confirmed by the DENR.

The Feb. 9 BFAR study prompted Lafayette to issue a statement that "BFAR's continuing tests consistently showed that there was no mercury contamination at all."

The mercury contamination issue peaked when antimining groups sent their own fish samples to BFAR for testing without saying where the samples were taken and how.

"BFAR found the samples unfit to eat. Although unscientific, this analysis was what the Sorsogon groups used to scare people from eating Sorsogon fish, affecting the livelihood of their own fishermen in the process," said the Lafayette statement. *With Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

US soldier deported

AN AMERICAN SERVICEMAN WHO WAS DEclared AWOL (absent without official leave) over five years ago was deported from the Philippines Friday to face a court-martial in the United States, the Bureau of Immigration said Monday.

Thomas Glen Jarrell, 37, was escorted by US military personnel when he left on a Continental Airlines flight to Guam. He was placed in the Bureau of Immigration blacklist to prevent his reentry into the Philippines.

Jarrell deserted the US military in 2000. The US armed forces issued a warrant for his arrest on Nov. 11 that year.

He had been under BI custody for over two years following his arrest in Angeles City on Jan. 16, 2004.

BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said it took two years to deport Jarrell because the bureau had to wait for the American's criminal case in the Philippines to be resolved.

Jarrell was accused of forcing a 17-year-old girl into prostitution but the case was dismissed by the Angeles City court on Feb. 10.

Leila B. Salaverria

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, March 1, 2006
Ash Wednesday

1st Reading:	Jl 2:12-18
2nd Reading:	2 Cor 5:20-6:2
Gospel:	Mark 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be careful not to make a show of your righteousness before people. If you do so, you do not gain anything from your Father in heaven. When you give something to the poor, do not have it trumpeted before you, as do those who want to be seen in the synagogues and in the streets in order to be praised by the people. I assure you, they have been already paid in full.

"If you give something to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your gift remains really secret. Your Father who sees what is kept secret, will reward you.

"When you pray, do not be like those who want to be seen. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues or on street corners to be seen by everyone. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is with you in secret; and your Father who sees what is kept secret will reward you.

"When you fast, do not put on a miserable face as do the hypocrites. They put on a gloomy face, so people can see they are fasting. I tell you this: They have been paid in full already. When you fast, wash your face and make yourself look cheerful, because you are not fasting for appearances or for people, but for your Father who sees beyond appearances. And your Father, who sees what is kept secret will reward you."

Commentary

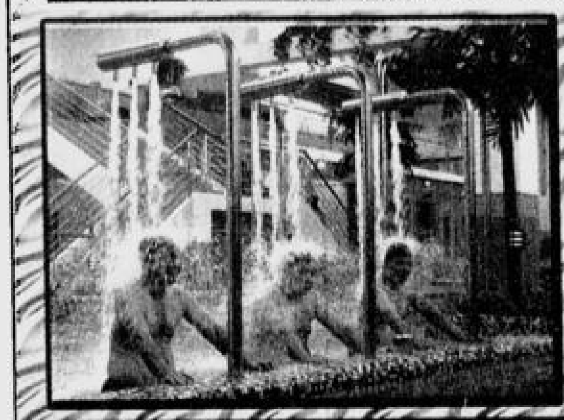
Assemble! Gather! It's time to come home, come back to our baptisms, to our promises to live in the freedom of the children of God. It's time that God got all our hearts and lives; not bits and pieces. And time for God to be stirred again to concern for us and take pity on us and all the earth. It is time for us to be ambassadors for Christ, so that God can appeal to the world through us. It is time for us to be reconciled to God and to be reconciled to one another. It is time to fast, to pray and give alms. It is time to relent of our evil, our self-absorption and greed, our violence and despair, and live once again with the first enthusiasm of our baptisms. It's the springtime of our souls—it's Lent.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

When consumers open the Yellow Pages, a transaction is closed.

Studies show that people who use the Yellow Pages are already decided to purchase a product or service.

DPC YELLOW PAGES



Soak in Relief
Reduce the effects of stress-related ailments

ACE WATER SPA
Leisure Hydrotherapy

HEAD & SHOULDER MASSAGE
Health Benefits:
- Relieves high blood pressure
- Eases eye fatigue and headaches
- Remedy for depression and emotional exhaustion
- Reduces nerve compression
- Loosens tight muscle

REMINDERS:
- Bring proper swimming attire and bath towel. Female : bathing suit Male : fitted swimwear
- Bringing of foods and beverages are prohibited.

399 Del Monte Ave., SFDM, near cor. Banawe St., Quezon City
Tel.Nos.:(632) 367-8040 / 367-8041 / 367-8061 / 367-8062
415-0164 / Fax No.: 415-2477 Email: acewaterspa@yahoo.com

ACE TURNS 1 12 Days Anniversary Celebration
From March 6-17, 2006

#1 20% DISCOUNT ON SPA SERVICE P400-adult / P200-kid

#2 SPAsta Galore FREE Pasta & Iced Tea with every Spa Service P480-adult / P240-kid

#3 GC Madness Buy 10 Gift Certificates Get 4 FREE P480 / GC *Free 4GC valid for 2 months from purchase date

Plus! FREE SOUP RAFFLE every hour Starting 10am-8pm
Cut & Present coupons upon availing.
*Valid during the 12 days celebration

3-DAY SALE MAR 3 • 4 • 5

MANILA
LAS PIÑAS
PAMPANGA
MANDURRIAO

up to 50% OFF on great selections

get a chance to Win Every Hour (10 draws/ 10 winners per day)

at stake 120 SAMSUNG CAMCORDERS SCD-363 (30 PER STORE)
Every P500 purchase entitles you to join

PLUS! Get additional 3% rebate on P3,000 minimum purchase when you use your MasterCard

MasterCard
there are some things money can't buy. for everything else there's MasterCard

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0338 Series of 2006

We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Kid gloves for YOU leader? Army says he's under probe

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE ARMED FORCES APPEARS to be handling Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim with kid gloves.

The former Young Officers Union (YOU) leader, one of the officers who led the bloodiest coup attempt against the Aquino administration in 1989, was accused by top AFP officials of planning to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo last Friday, but he was not included among those charged with being part of a supposed coup plot.

And so far, the military brass has not said that he would be court-martialed for disloyalty.

Lim was relieved of command of the elite 1st Scout Ranger Regiment Thursday night, with the discovery of his plan to join protest rallies during the 20th anniversary commemoration of Edsa I.

He was initially "taken into custody" by Gen. Generoso Senga, AFP chief of staff, and then transferred to Army custody on Friday.

He has since been "restricted" to quarters at Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

'Nikkie'

Lim is among the retired and active AFP officers implicated in the alleged plot of communist rebels and military elements to oust Ms Arroyo and take power for themselves.

An AFP briefing paper on the so-called "Final Talk 2" between the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Makabayang Kawal Pilipino spoke of military forces under a certain "Nikkie" as the overall ground commander.

"Nikkie" is believed to be Lim, according to the document.

Lim is not among the 16 charged in connection with the alleged plot. But the others named in the document—ex-senator and retired Col. Gregorio Honasan, retired Col. Jake Malajacan, retired Navy Capt. Felix Turingan, 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan and lawyer Jose Christopher Belmonte—have been charged.

Asked why Lim was spared, AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison said: "The Army will come up with its separate investigation.

"The investigation is still ongoing."

To the observation that Lim was being given special treatment, Kison said: "That is speculation."

Meanwhile, Col. Ariel Querubin, who admitted last Sunday that he had planned to lead a large contingent in withdrawing support from Ms Arroyo, yesterday was relieved of his post as 1st Marine Brigade commander.

He was sacked two days after Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda was relieved as Marine commandant.

Querubin has flown to Marawi City, the base of the 1st Marine Brigade, for today's turnover of the command to his deputy commander, Lt. Col. Luisito Marcelino.

Army chief forms elite anticoup unit in Metro

From page A1

Battalion, Mechanized Infantry Battalion and Security Escort Battalion—will serve as the frontline in case a military uprising breaks out in Metro Manila, according to Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Esperon inspected the elite troops at the Army grandstand in Fort Bonifacio on Monday night. Conspicuous during the presentation were five armored personnel carriers.

The team is headed by Col. Arturo Ortiz, commander of the Special Forces Regiment based at Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija.

"They are our contingency force that we, or the National Capital Region Command, may deploy," Esperon said.

He said that once deployed, the team would be commanded by the NCRCom under Lt. Gen. Alan Cabalquinto.

"My job is to keep [the troops] intact and prepare them for the jobs that they are expected to do," Esperon said.

The NCRCom is mainly in charge of securing the capital. It was reactivated in response to the July 27, 2003, mutiny at the Oakwood Premier apartments in Makati involving some 300 junior officers and men.

In case of violence

Ortiz yesterday said the Army chief had given instructions for the team to quell any uprising.

"When there is violence, we should respond. This is a ready reserve contingency force of the [Army] so that we can respond to any contingency or threat in Fort Bonifacio and in Metro Manila," he said.

Like the Marine Corps, the special team will be based in Fort Bonifacio.

Asked if there was still unrest in the military, AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison said: "We're not expecting anything, but we should not take anything lightly."

He said the formation of the special team was "an act of prevention."

Esperon said the inspection was part of checking "the completeness of our men and to give instructions for the night."

"This is not to give you a signal that we are disturbed, that we are alarmed. But we hope we can put across our message that the Philippine Army is ready to do its constitutional functions in line with the directives of the chain of command," he said.

The general said the Armed Forces leadership would decide in a few days how long the special team would remain in Fort Bonifacio.

He told the troops that they should not follow the example of some of their fellow soldiers who had supposedly forged an "alliance" with the communist New People's Army—a reference to certain members of the mutinous Magdalo group.

"It is always best that our men know what we are fighting for, and tonight I have just said this is a fight for democracy against communism."

Far from calm

The military front has lately been far from calm.

On Feb. 24, authorities said they had averted a military coup with the arrest of Scout Rangers leader Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who supposedly planned to join the street protests during the Edsa I anniversary. *(See story on Page A8.)*

Esperon's Monday night inspection of the special team came on the heels of the six-hour "standoff" at Marine headquarters, involving troops led by Col. Ariel Querubin protesting the relief of the Marine commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

"I think the matter of the Marines has been well settled. I had no doubt from the start that the incident [Sunday] night would be settled peacefully. I have always believed that the Marine officers and enlisted personnel are very reasonable and know what is right," Esperon said.

Ortiz belongs to Class 1979 of the Philippine Military Academy, which also includes Querubin and Kison.

Full alert again

Both Ortiz and Querubin belong to the elite circle of recipients of the Medal of Valor, the military's highest combat award.

The Philippine National Police downgraded its alert status in Metro Manila to heightened alert yesterday morning, with street protests appearing to have quieted down.

But Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas, intelligence chief of the NCR police, said the level was again raised to full alert in order to contain possible mass actions resulting from tensions in the House regarding the arrest of party-list lawmakers. *(See story on Page A1.)*

But officials refused to speculate on the level of the threat, if any, to Metro Manila or to the national government.

"One, there is no rally. Another, the Marines have stood down," PNP Director Vidal Querol said in explaining the reasons behind the lowering of the security alert.

"I also want to give my men respite so they can have a breathing spell," he said.

Metro Manila had been on full alert during the last 10 days, with groups seeking the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo taking to the streets. On Friday, shortly after the President declared a state of national emergency, thousands marched on Edsa demanding her resignation.

Querol, head of the Metro Manila Police, sent home on Sunday about 1,000 antiriot cops who augmented the forces in the capital last week.

About 3,000 antiriot cops remain on standby in Metro Manila.

"I can deal with the situation even with [the heightened] alert level, should there be any threat," Querol said, adding that the military's NCRCom would be quickly called to lend a hand if needed.

No longer a fortress

Even Malacañang has ceased to be a fortress, easing up on its security and opening its gates after restricting entry for the past five days.

Container vans that were used to bar entry through the gates at J.P. Laurel, Mendiola, Arlegui and San Miguel streets were taken away early yesterday.

But members of the Presidential Security Group continued to screen vehicles going to and coming from the Palace compound.

PSG guards, bearing heavy arms, also continued to man security outposts installed at San Rafael Street and at the gate to Kalayaan Hall.

Security remained tight at Kalayaan Hall with PSG guards, their numbers increased since last week, inspecting the belongings of those coming in and leaving.

"We are still on red alert," PSG chief Delfin Bangit said in a phone interview. "And to be on red alert means that PSG guards are required 100 percent to be present at their stations."

Bangit said the decision to remove the container vans was a "tactical" one. He refused to elaborate beyond saying that it would perhaps "help defuse the tension of civilians using the roads in Malacañang."

Press office

The use of the press office at Kalayaan Hall remained limited, with reporters allowed to stay there only until 10 p.m.

But this was an improvement because since Friday, reporters had been told to leave the press office at 6 p.m. and transfer to the Arlegui Guest House several meters away.

Since Feb. 17, reporters also had to wait for clearance to enter the Kalayaan press office. But yesterday, they were allowed entry even without a clearance.

The tightened security at the Palace was imposed a few days before Feb. 24, when the President declared a state of national emergency.

The other day, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said the government "was over the hump" because it was able to prevent two alleged plots against the administration from being hatched.

These were "Oplan Hackle," an alleged plot to bomb certain places, including the PMA during its alumni homecoming, and the supposed plan of some members of the Scout Rangers and the Marines to join the protest rallies. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto and Christine O. Avendaño*

Economic team told ...

From page A1

The economic team led by Teves wanted the proclamation lifted as soon as possible, but Defense Secretary Avelino J. Cruz Jr. said the economic team deferred to the decision of the security cluster to keep the proclamation in the meantime.

Cruz said that while the country was already "over the hump," the security cluster and economic team had decided to assess the political situation on a daily basis to see if the proclamation could be lifted.

On the sidelines of the "Sowing Seeds of Hope" conference at the Manila Peninsula, Cruz said that as long as the "whereases" declared in PP 1017 were present, it would remain in force. *(See related story on Page A4.)*

At the briefing on Monday night, the security cluster spoke of eyewitness accounts that said that members of the extreme Left had continued to touch base with officers of the military, according to Trade Secretary Peter Favila.

"The way I understood it from them, that's the cause of major concern," Favila said.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda is, nevertheless, pushing for the immediate lifting of PP 1017 to "control its unintended consequence, particularly the signaling impact on the media and investors."

"The only way to reassure them is to lift it. The President actually wants a quick return to normalcy as it provides more fertile ground to pursue her economic programs. In her calculation, a good economy is her best protection," Salceda said in a text message.

"If there is no more rain, she does not need to use an umbrella."

Favila said the security cluster was aware of the jitters caused by the state of national emergency on the business climate.

Briefing for business groups

To minimize the impact of the uncertainty, Favila and Teves said they would hold meetings this week with business groups, including the Makati Business Club (MBC) whose leaders had been critical of the Arroyo administration.

"It's a lack of understanding on the proclamation, which has led to fears of possible takeover of utilities. We've kept in touch with businessmen to tell them that these are unfounded," Teves said.

The head of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) said foreigners had become reluctant to invest in the country and firms with foreign equity were inclined to put on hold expansion plans because of the state of emergency.

Ecop president Rene Y. Soriano called for a periodic assessment of the state of national emergency.

Thumbs up

While Ecop is uneasy over the proclamation, a foreign bank has given thumbs up to Ms Arroyo's swift move to quash an alleged coup plot.

"We believe the risk of a coup and political crisis in the next three months has diminished since Friday and this should boost sentiment in financial markets in the next one to two weeks," said Credit Suisse in the Tuesday edition of its Philippine daily report.

Credit Suisse based its assessment on the failure of the alleged coup plotters to generate mass support.

"We noticed hardly any large rallies or gatherings in Manila. One thing to note from this weekend's events is that the population did not show much sign of supporting a coup or ousting of President Arroyo," Credit Suisse said.

It expected the President to lift the proclamation "probably in the next few weeks."

In contrast to the broad opposition generated by the proclamation among Filipino investors and media outfits, Credit Suisse found the document "quite eloquent."

"The President does have the right to impose a state of emergency through a presidential decree so no impropriety on this count has taken place," Credit Suisse said.

Strike

At the Department of Labor and Employment, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas allayed fears that the state of emergency would curtail the rights and freedoms enjoyed by the labor sector.

"I don't think the declaration can put on hold the exercise of workers and union rights that are provided for by the Constitution," Sto. Tomas told reporters.

The secretary, however, said, she had yet to ask Malacañang about the implication of the declaration on strikes.

Sto. Tomas noted that on Saturday, members of a transport group in Cavite went on strike because of a labor dispute. The strike, she said, was neither dispersed nor was regarded as a violation of the ban on rallies imposed by PP 1017. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Jerome Aning*

Congress unites behind 5 solons linked ...

From page A1

without a fight."

"In short, all the emergency authority the Constitution grants her (Ms Arroyo) may yet be pulled to the limit under the lash of necessity but it cannot be stretched to the breaking point of suppressing inalienable rights, weakening free institutions and ultimately destroying democracy," said Locsin, a member of the PDP-Laban party, which is part of the administration coalition.

Divide and rule

Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza of the Nationalist People's Coalition said the chamber might as well "abolish" itself if it could not defend its members from the "divide and rule" ploy being employed by Palace agents.

"My dear colleagues, it has been said that a leader who can no longer rule by heart will rule by force," said Plaza. "Just because the President has lost the moral authority to govern ... does not mean she has to apply the full force of her office on citizens who do not agree with her."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles of Lakas said the "House has ample powers to protect itself as an institution."

"We will assert the independence of the House. Barring that, we will have to face the problem (of Malacañang encroachment) if it ever gets there," said Nograles of Lakas.

Waiver signed

The chamber unanimously adopted Resolution No. 1169 sponsored by Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico which seeks to "accord the (five lawmakers) the right to a preliminary investigation and, pending resolution thereof, that they be given protective custody by this House."

This came minutes after Ocampo and the other four party-list lawmakers signed a document waiving their right to press charges of arbitrary detention if they eventually are taken into police custody.

The signing of the waiver paved the way for a preliminary investigation, which could take place as early as today.

No more inquest

"There will be no inquest any more and no arrest without warrant," Ocampo said.

Ocampo and the four other lawmakers—party-list Representatives Ocampo, Rafael Mariano, Teddy Casiño, Lisa Maza of Gabriela and Joel Virador—are in the protective custody of De Venecia and other House leaders.

Earlier yesterday, Department of Justice prosecutors formally filed in a Makati court rebellion charges against Anakpawis legislator Crispin Beltran and rebel 1Lt. Lawrence San Juan.

A prosecution panel headed by Senior State Prosecutor Manny Velasco recommended no bail for Beltran and San Juan, who are now in police custody.

"After an evaluation of the records, evidence tends to show that respondents (San Juan) and (Beltran) are the leaders/promoters of rebellion," a four-page DOJ resolution said.

The panel endorsed the conduct of a preliminary investigation against 14 others who had been implicated by the Philippine National Police in the alleged coup plot.

The 14 include, among others, communist leader Jose Maria Sison, Ocampo, Mariano, Casiño, Maza, Virador, former Sen. Gregorio Honasan and ex-military men Jake Malajacan and Felix Turingan.

DOJ efforts to speed up the filing of formal charges against Ocampo, Mariano, Casiño, Maza and Virador suffered a hitch when the five refused to be subjected to inquest proceedings.

Ocampo of Bayan Muna demanded that a preliminary investigation be conducted instead by the panel as agreed upon, he said, between De Venecia and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

"Upon the advice of our chief legal counsel, Romeo Capulong, we have refused to be subjected to inquest proceedings being foisted by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño," said Ocampo.

Legal shortcut

He told reporters that an "inquest cannot be done because we have not been arrested."

Zuño had earlier requested House Sergeant at Arms Bayani Favic to present the lawmakers for inquest.

The five lawmakers then holed themselves up for six hours inside the adjacent Mitra Building in the Batasan complex.

Mariano accused the Arroyo administration of cutting short legal processes.

"Even Marcos, who sent us to jail, tied our hands and gagged our lips failed to silence the people's struggle," said Mariano.

The lawmakers maintained that only the courts could issue valid warrants of arrest. *With a report from Tarra Quismundo*

'Wanted' solons prefer cold floor to warm hotel beds

From page A1

inside the Batasang Pambansa.

"It's all right, all of us are used to sleeping on the floor," Rep. Teodoro Casiño said yesterday, recounting how it felt to sleep in a conference room above the House session hall after Speaker Jose de Venecia gave them sanctuary.

Casiño's "roommates" were fellow Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo—a former communist guerrilla leader used to living in the hills—and Joel Virador, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano and Gabriela Rep. Lisa Maza.

Along with Rep. Crispin Beltran, who is detained in Camp Crame, and 10 other people, the five lawmakers are accused by the police of being involved in a plot to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Better than at Rembrandt

De Venecia offered to place the lawmakers under his custody pending the outcome of a pretrial investigation into the allegations against them.

Casiño said sleeping at the House made it more convenient for him and his colleagues to perform their legislative functions as they would no longer have to travel to go to their offices.

He said De Venecia and Majority Leader Prospero Nograles offered them accommodations at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City.

"But rather than be holed up in a hotel, we'd rather stay at the House compound so we can continue our functions as congressmen," Casiño told the INQUIRER.

At their own risk

Casiño said that although he and his colleagues were under House custody, they were not being restricted and could come and go as they please, but at their own risk.

"The Speaker gave us the place, also dinner and breakfast. As for the beddings and the toiletries, each of us provided for himself or herself," Casiño said.

Lights on

Casiño, Mariano and Virador used sleeping bags and mats spread on the floor. Maza and Ocampo slept on separate couches.

Casiño said he and his colleagues might have slept better last night if only they had been able to turn off the lights.

"They couldn't point [to] where the switches are. So we slept with the lights on. Our sleep was interrupted every once in a while," he said.

"It was also rather cold. It seems that the only setting of the air conditioning in the House is high cool."

Round 3

"I slept well," said Ocampo who, as a political prisoner during the Marcos dictatorship in the 1970s, spent many nights in cold and dark detention centers.

Ocampo joked that the youngest among them, Casiño, had brought along his wife.

"*Naninibago pa* (He's still not used to it)," said Ocampo.

"This is already Round 3," Ocampo quipped, comparing being under House custody to earning a "doctorate."

He said he earned his baccalaureate degree when the Marcos regime arrested, tortured and imprisoned him from 1976 to 1985, and his post-graduate degree when the Aquino administration detained him from 1989 to 1992.

The only rose

Maza said she slept curled up on a sofa and read a book unti 2:30 a.m.

"The lights were not my problem Since I was the only woman in the group and we were in just one hall, I was rather self-conscious," she said.

Through the night, two House security personnel inside stood guard.

"I woke up at 6 a.m. That was rather short sleep," Maza said.

Mercury Drug Operation Bigay Lunas:
The People's Clinic

In 1999, Mercury Drug, together with its business partners and the local government units, carried out an activity that aims to reach the most number of its less fortunate patrons and in its own small way give them the gift of wellness as token of the company's sincere appreciation. Thus, the Operation Bigay Lunas was launched.

The Operation Bigay Lunas is a simultaneous, one-day free clinic that provides free medical consultations and medicines to indigents nationwide. Now on its 8th year, the Operation Bigay Lunas has provided healthcare services to at least one million indigents nationwide. The Operation Bigay Lunas is also made possible by contributions of time from more than one thousand two hundred volunteer doctors and non-medical volunteers.

Mercury Drug's partnership with the local government units and its business partners allowed patients to receive treatment and alleviate the chances for their sickness to lead to more serious illnesses and even hospitalization for conditions that could have been prevented had the patient received preventive care and early treatment.

In addition to this, the Operation Bigay Lunas held every March 1st serves as tribute to Mercury Drug's anniversary as a means of giving back to the community for the continued trust and patronage it has extended to Mercury Drug.

Once again, as the company marks its 61st anniversary today, Operation Bigay Lunas, through the cooperation of the respective provincial governors, city and municipality mayors, is here to serve the community in 61 cities across the country

over 60 years
1 promise...

Nakasisiguro gamot ay laging bago

Backed by decades of experience in the industry, the widest network of branches strategically located nationwide, and well-trained pharmacists and employees– Mercury Drug assures you of unparalleled safety, convenience and assistance when it comes to your well-being.

Then, now and for years to come, we will stay true to this promise. This is our commitment to you so that together, we will continue to build a healthier nation.

mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

Operation Bigay Lunas Sites:

National Capital Region
Kalookan City
Las Piñas City
Makati City
Malabon City
Mandaluyong City
Manila
  - Tondo
  - Sta. Cruz
Marikina City
Muntinlupa City
Navotas
Parañaque City
Pasay City
Pasig City
Pateros
Quezon City
  - Brgy. Commonwealth
  - Brgy. Gulud, Novaliches
  - Brgy. Bagumbayan, Libis
San Juan
Taguig
Valenzuela

Luzon
Antipolo City
Binangonan
Cainta
Rodriguez
San Mateo
Taytay
Bulacan
  - Hagonoy
  - Bocaue
  - Meycauayan
  - Malolos
  - Plaridel
Cavite
  - Dasmariñas
  - Naic
  - Bacoor
  - Imus
  - Tanza
  - Trece Martirez
Laguna
  - Biñan
  - San Pedro
  - Los Baños
  - Calamba
La Union
Laoag City
Dagupan City
Ilagan City
Tarlac City
Cabanatuan City
Angeles City
Zambales
Lipa City
Camarines Norte
Naga City
Legaspi City
Puerto Princesa City

Visayas
Cebu City
San Jose, Antique
Tacloban City
Saint Bernard, Leyte
(Special Operation Bigay Lunas)

Mindanao
Tagum City
General Santos City
Cagayan de Oro City
Iligan City

Business Partners:

- United Laboratories
- Pfizer, Inc.
- Glaxo Smithkline
- Astra Zeneca
- Pharez Pharma
- Abbott Laboratories
- Bristol Myers/Mead Johnson
- Kamire
- Cathay Drug
- GX International
- Metz Pharma
- Natrapharm
- Solvang
- Philusa Corporation
- Medical Center Trading Corp.
- Nestlé Philippines
- Unilever
- Colgate
- San Miguel Corporation

Int'l group seeks halt to media crackdown

From page A1

director Ann Cooper condemned Saturday's police raid on The Daily Tribune and a government threat to take over media entities it deemed were helping Ms Arroyo's political foes.

"Your administration's tactics—raiding a newspaper, stationing troops in front of television and radio stations, and threatening to issue government editorial guidelines—jeopardize the democratic advances of the last 20 years," the CPJ said.

Deeply disturbing

"It's deeply disturbing to see political unrest threaten the precious and deeply held concepts of press freedom and democracy," the media watchdog said.

Police confiscated documents and posted men at the door of the Tribune's office, but the paper has continued to publish.

"We ask you to reverse the steps you have taken to control the media and give them reassurances that they will be allowed to continue their work without fear in the future," the CPJ said.

The regulatory National Telecommunications Commission warned media groups on Friday against broadcasting calls for the removal of Ms Arroyo by force.

Broadcasters were asked to restrain themselves so they would not inadvertently provide "aid or support" to those calling for the ouster of the President, a presidential aide said.

But the country's biggest broadcaster, ABS-CBN, has proclaimed that it will not practice self-censorship.

Since the fall of Marcos, the Philippine media have developed into one of the most vibrant in Asia.

Cebu newspapers

In Cebu, five daily newspapers issued a statement saying that the government could not impose prior restraint on media, pointing out that the emergency proclamation "did not suspend the constitutional right to liberty of expression."

The newspapers were Sun Star Cebu, Cebu Daily News, The Freeman, Sun Star Superbalita and Banat News. The editors of these papers are Pachico A. Seares, Eileen G. Mangubat, Jerry Tundag and Juanito V. Jabat. Joining the newspapers were columnist Juan L. Mercado of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and broadcaster Bobby Nalzaro of dySS and GMA 7.

Drilon said that even in the harshest power that the President as Commander in Chief can wield under the Constitution, the rights to free speech and expression were not suspended.

"You cannot invoke any power under the state of national emergency which can justify (muzzling the media)," he said.

"Certainly, it is not for the police to determine what standards media should follow, that is totally unacceptable, blatantly illegal, blatantly unconstitutional," he added.

Drilon said a declaration of martial law did not suspend the operation of the Constitution or the rights it guarantees.

Basic liberties not suspended

"So, it's very clear under our Constitution that a much broader authority of the declaration of martial law does not even result in the suspension of basic rights. How much more a description that we are now in a state of national emergency?" he said.

Drilon said that the Supreme Court had several decisions affirming that a state of rebellion did not result in the suspension of basic liberties "such as the freedom of the press."

He said that Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 was just a mere description that the country was in a state of emergency but it did not give her any new powers.

"(But) it would appear that it has metamorphosed into an emergency rule. From a declaration of a state of emergency, they have what looks like emergency rule—warrantless arrests being affected, raids on newspapers, the Tribune particularly, and the PNP saying now (that media will) have to conform to certain standards," Drilon said.

Chilling effect

"And you have armed elements of the government in TV stations. Wow," Drilon said.

"What was otherwise described as state of the nation which is the state of national emergency has metamorphosed into what looks like an emergency rule."

He said PP 1017 had its "chilling effect and the state has taken advantage of this chilling effect."

"They have, without any regard to the freedom of the people, suppressed or are trying to suppress freedom of expression, freedom of speech with what they have done on media," he said.

Philip C. Tubeza, AP, AFP

Susan hits inclusion in list of conspirators

ROCES

SUSAN ROCES ON MONDAY night lashed out at the government for including her in the list of "conspirators" who supposedly plotted to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo last week.

"In my entire life it's only now that I've been called a conspirator," Roces said, referring to the Malacañang document that said her declaration to join the protest march at Edsa on Feb. 24 was part of a conspiracy against the President.

The label apparently did not stop her from attending the testimonial dinner for Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, himself another suspected "conspirator" in the supposed plot against Ms Arroyo.

"And to those who want to arrest us, we are not afraid. Come and get us," Binay, a former human rights lawyer who defended victims of martial law, said in his speech marking his 20th year in public service.

Fe Zamora

UP students, teachers walk out vs 1017

From page A1

of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and the Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), said the proclamation was oppressive and unconstitutional.

In the Senate, Senators Ralph Recto and Pia Cayetano urged Ms Arroyo to immediately revoke her proclamation, saying that it had led to abuses and caused jitters among the business community.

As the streets remained off-limits to demonstrations, UP students and teachers assembled at Quezon Hall in front of the Oblation statue, where they condemned Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency.

Refuge

Numbering in the hundreds, the demonstrators declared the university a "refuge" for political dissenters in the face of the government crackdown on protesters and the media critical of the Arroyo administration.

The University Council of the Diliman campus issued a declaration challenging PP 1017 and scoring the threats it posed to Filipinos' constitutional and human rights.

The declaration said UP Diliman "is a refuge for those who are subjected to political arrests and other forms of harassment."

It also "remains an open space for public debate consistent with its treasured value of academic freedom" and "challenges every move to clamp down on any of our basic freedoms.

"A university in a democracy draws its life from an environment of political freedom," the declaration read.

"None of its basic functions—the quest for truth, the encouragement of critical inquiry, the stimulation of the imagination—is possible in a climate of repression," it added.

UP Prof. Randy David earlier dared the UP community to serve as a "sanctuary of protest" in defense of academic freedom and civil liberties.

In response, "civil disobedience" has been in full play at UP for the past few days, with members of the academic community declaring the "Diliman Republic a state of emergency-free zone."

"In the coming days, we will convert classrooms into centers of discussion about what is going on in society," David said.

UP president takes stand

UP president Emerlinda Roman herself has issued a statement affirming the university's commitment to the rights of its constituents to hold rallies, forums and demonstrations.

"The lifeline of any university is freedom. If you're not free, you have no business finding the truth. This is the reason academic freedom is enshrined in any university," David said on Monday.

The sociology professor and INQUIRER columnist said UP should once again take the lead in fighting all threats to free thought and democracy amid the government crackdown on dissenters.

David also called on other schools to hold protest rallies and demonstrations on their own campuses until PP 1017 was lifted.

In the meantime, the police and military should not be allowed to intrude on campus grounds to preserve university autonomy, according to history Prof. Maria Serena Diokno.

At the press conference of Church groups, the Catholic Rural Missionaries of the Philippines said Ms Arroyo should be held accountable for all forms of violations she committed against the people.

Also at the press conference were representatives of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, Ecumenical Bishops Forum and the United Methodist Church.

Sharon Duremdes, secretary general of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, urged the public to join street protests against the proclamation.

In a statement, the Iglesia Filipina Independiente called on Ms Arroyo to withdraw PP 1017 at the "soonest possible time and respect the inherent right of our people to live in freedom."

"We also reiterate our appeal for her to take the patriotic duty to step down from the presidency to spare our country from the agony of further dissent and division and to give way for the establishment of a democratic government that can truly unite and represent our people," it said.

Tony Bayod of the PCPR said measures like PP 1017 could not stop the "people's quest for truth and justice amid the illegitimacy and all-around bankruptcy of the Arroyo government."

Bishop Isaias Bingtan of the UCCP said the presidential proclamation was an admission on the part of Ms Arroyo of a "flawed political and economic structure and the failure of democracy" under her leadership. *With reports from Alcuin Papa, Philip C. Tubeza and AFP*

Nibor Diamond Buying Office of the Philippines

NIBOR

FREE APPRAISAL

INTERNATIONALLY EXPERIENCED GEMOLOGISTS

40 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Highest Price and Instant Cash for old and modern cut Diamond from 2 carats up to 30 carats.

Pawnshop owners and agents are welcome.

By Appointment Only:
Mobile: (0917) 840-1573
Monday - Sunday 10am - 5pm

Central Jewelry at the Jewellery,
Greenhills Shopping Center,
San Juan, Metro Manila

BLUE BOZ WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY
"Your Strategic Partner in Water Station Business"

Php 295,000
AVAIL INSTALLMENT PLAN PROMO

WITH MORE THAN 200 STORES NATIONWIDE

PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION (Member)
WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION (Member)

FRANCHISE NOW!
Independent are also welcome.

OTHER PRODUCTS & SERVICES
- Made to order stickers
- Reverse Osmosis Membranes
- Pump & Motors
- UV Sterilizers & Ozonators
- Filters & Cartridges
- Upgrading of System

"Safe Water for a Better Life"

FREE
- 5 year Service and Maintenance by Highly Professional Engineers and Technicians.
- Water store layout and design.
- Excellent staff training.
- Extended marketing support and strategies

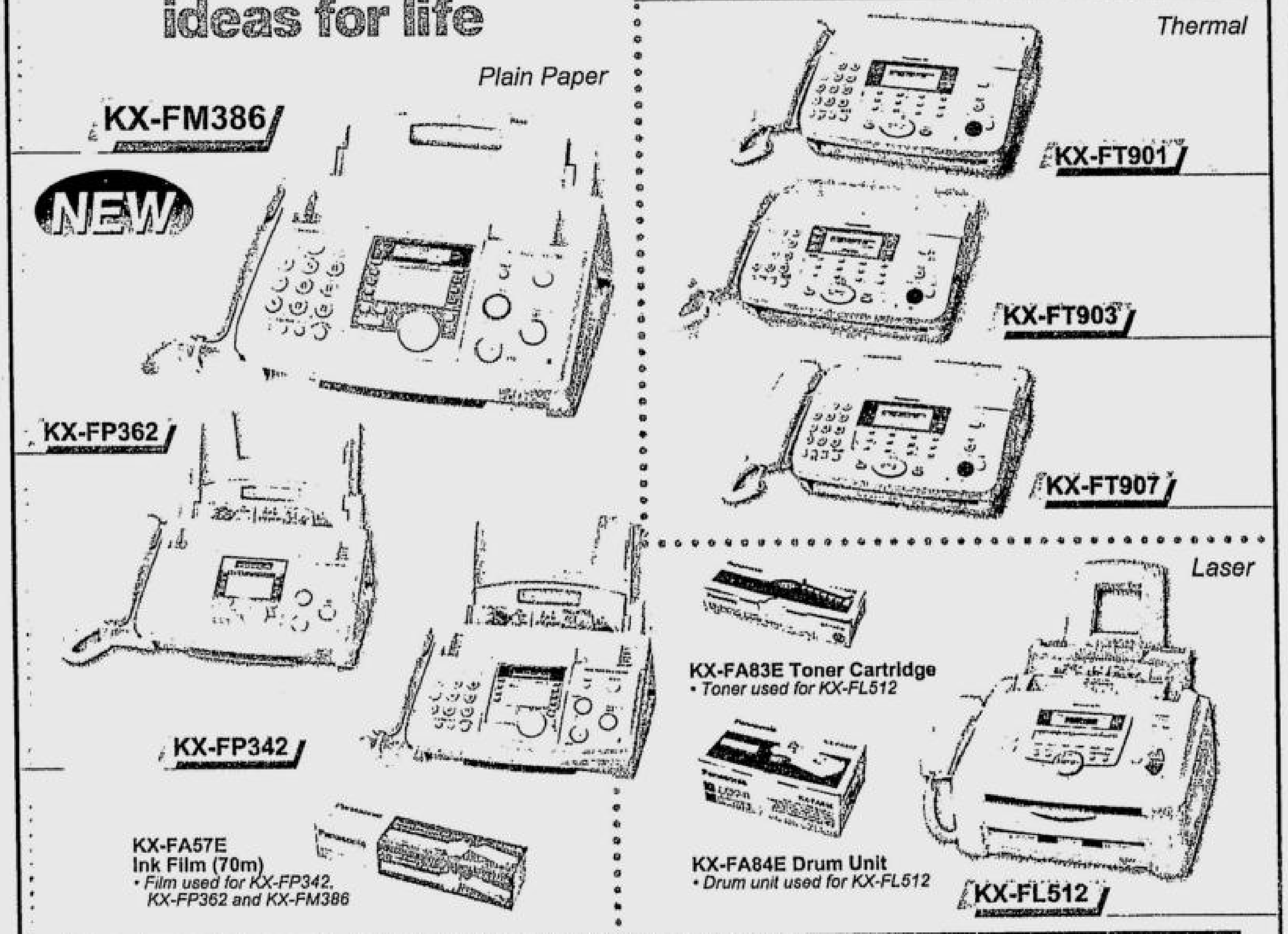
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL:
634-8542 / 634-1207
VISIT US AT: www.bluebozwater.com
Unit 107 Parc Royale Condominium, Jade St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

"ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR WATER STORE NEEDS"

SUPPORT SERVICE PRODUCTS
Sediment Filters, Carbon Cartridges, Slim Blue Housing, R.O. Membranes and UV Lamps
Cap & Plast Cap Seal
Heatg
Pet Bottles & PC Bot
Caustic and Sol
TABLE TOP Water Dispe
HOT & CO Water Dispe

Panasonic
ideas for life

The high performing fax machine.
No wonder people choose Panasonic.



KEY FEATURES	KX-FT901	KX-FT903	KX-FT907	KX-FP342	KX-FP362	KX-FM386	KX-FL512
Automatic Paper Cutter		●	●				
Document Feeder	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	20 sheets
Navigator Key	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
64-Level Halftone	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Copy Speed				4 PPM	4 PPM	4 PPM	10 PPM
Digital Speaker Phone			●		●	●	
Document Memory		20 pages (max)	20 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	170 pages (max)
Digital Answering System			●		●	●	
Sequential Broadcast		10 locations	10 locations	20 locations	20 locations	20 locations	20 locations
Printer Function						●	●
Scanner Function						●	●
PC Fax						●	
*Caller-ID Ready	●	●	●			●	●
Dial Lock Function	●	●	●				

*Caller-ID subscription required. Features and design are subject to change without prior notice.

For dealer referrals, please call: **Panasonic Philippines (Sales Division of PMPC)**
Tel. Nos. 899-4595 to 98 • Fax No. 897-4558 • Email Address: pmpc_systemsales@ph.panasonic.com

Thaksin defies protest threat, won't quit

BANGKOK—THAI PRIME MINISTER THAKSIN Shinawatra defied threats of street marches by foes who demand he quit, but said he was willing to accept any democratic way out of a growing crisis proposed by the political opposition.

SHINAWATRA

"The protesters are exerting mob rule over the rule of law, which I can't accept," Thaksin told reporters after a lunch with the army, navy, air force and police chiefs.

"I am happy to cooperate on anything, just tell me, as long as they are democratic ways," Thaksin said a day after the three opposition parties declared a boycott of an April 2 snap election he called to resolve the crisis.

Thaksin told a cabinet meeting earlier he was willing to postpone the election if that were proposed by the opposition, two ministers said.

But the opposition parties said they had decided on a boycott because a fair election was impossible without political reform as Thaksin controlled political institutions designed to be independent.

Leaders of a campaign to oust Thaksin for alleged abuse of power and corruption demanded he resign by Sunday or face marches through the streets of Bangkok, a move that could spark violence.

The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), a coalition of extra-parliamentary groups, said he would face the "people's power" if he ignored the ultimatum.

"March 5 will be the day of reckoning," Sondhi Limthongkul, a media tycoon who began the campaign to oust his former business ally in September, told protesters in the early hours of Tuesday.

"We will march peacefully until the morning of the 6th to show our pure intention to request Thaksin to resign," Sondhi told the crowd.

The boycott unsettled financial markets, which had shown signs of recovery on Monday with investors hoping the election would provide a way out of the crisis.

At the lunchbreak, the main Thai stock index, which had risen 1.5 percent on Monday, was down 0.51 percent. Economists say the campaign to oust Thaksin could scare foreign investors away from planned huge infrastructure projects and cut economic growth.

A rally in the capital last Sunday attracted the biggest anti-government crowd in 14 years, peaking at 50,000. Monday night's gathering drew half that number.

But monks and nuns of the Dharma Army ("army of the teaching of Buddha"), were occupying the rally ground, and vowing to stay until Sunday's planned demonstration. *Reuters*

Golden Sky
HONGKONG SHENZHEN $78 DISNEYLAND $145
BANGKOK via KUWAIT $153 via THAI $193 + CAMBODIA $308
SHANGHAI + BEIJING $338
KUALA LUMPUR+GENTING HIGHLANDS $225
HOLYLAND TOUR $1,598 EUROPE $1988
MACAU $140
ANGKORWAT $750
EXOTIC INDIA $950
SINGAPORE $145
SIN+KUL+INDO $315
BORACAY via PAL
Tilays Beach Resort P3,888
Red Coconut P6,888
TICKET ONLY
LOS ANGELES $488
NEW YORK $548
EUROPE $675
AUSTRALIA $450
VANCOUVER $590
HONGKONG $83
SINGAPORE $95
TOKYO $410
BANGKOK $153
TORONTO $865
WE CAN BOOK ALL YOUR HOTEL NEEDS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD AT VERY LOW PRICES!
GOLDEN SKY TRAVEL & TOURS OPEN ON SUNDAYS
[illegible]

COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS
P11,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320, 15 CPM
BRAND NEW CANON iR 1210 BEST FOR BUS. P 39,950. ONLY
P 20,000. ONLY RECON RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
BRAND NEW CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE P 15,000. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS.
COPYTRADE
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph
• RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS
• CUTTERS/BLUEPRINT/RISO
• FAX MACHINES, ETC.
• ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
• BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

IWATA TIME RECORDER
Durable & Reliable
MORE THAN 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
←P9,800 E-2A
2Color Printing Red for Late Black for Punctual Operates during Brown-outs
P7,600→ 2CWB
SP - 900
Built-in Battery with printing optionsLarge illuminated Window Automatic Adjustment
P15,900
STAMPING MACHINE FOR MONTH, DATE, YEAR, AM - PM, TIME AND COMPANY NAME
IWATA U40 CROSS CUT PAPER SHREDDER P6,700
Cut size 3x25mm Thermal overload protection Cuts clips,staples & cards
Sole Distributor:
COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Tels.: 412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8139 to 42, 411-2396 to 98
Fax 411-2399 Email: colent@pldtdsl.net

Do People Talk Behind Your Back?
You probably have bad Breath.
THERABREATH KIT SYSTEM™ is the solution. It's sure to eliminate chronic bad breath condition after 7 days treatment or your money back with no obligation.
Gain confidence. Improve your social life.
Free use of Halimeter for monitoring bad breath condition
Free delivery within Metro Manila.
Tel No 890-8380 ; 895-5532
897-2486 : 895-5775
Cel# 0917-796-5859

idec AIR CONDITION
Split Type Aircon
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000, 2.5hp-P30,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Free Installation!
Call:8866696/7880221
Available at MC Home Depot -Makati, Fort Bonifacio & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)346-5498 / Davao-(082)235-8821

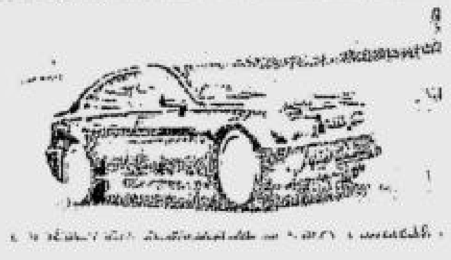
Live comfortably...
MAKATI EXECUTIVE TOWER II
Dela Rosa St., Pio Del Pilar, Makati City
35-storey Office, Commercial and Residential Condominium
Own a unit for as low as P9,980 monthly
LEADING CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPER (Presidential Awardee)
2005 CNBC Asia Business Leader Awards Honor Roll -Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
ARCHITECTURAL WORKS in full swing
For more information:
CITYLAND 812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894
www.cityland.net investments@cityland.net

MARIAN EUROPE PILGRIMAGE
WITH FATIMA & LOURDES & MORE
DEPARTING: APRIL 05, 24 & MAY 15, 2006
HOLYLAND PILGRIMAGE
WITH JORDAN - ISRAEL & EGYPT
DEPARTING: MARCH 27, APRIL 21 & MAY 20, 2006
SCANDINAVIA AND RUSSIA
BY MOTORCOACH - SIGHTSEEING
DEPARTING: MAY 24, 2006
PLUS OTHER SUMMER DEPARTURES!!!
CONTACT YOUR FAVORITE TRAVEL AGENT OR
TP travelplan, inc.
ESTABLISHED 1968
#620 Remedios St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 525-4564 • 523-2157 • 521-8524 • 524-1409
Trunkline Nos.: 523-8290 to 92 • Fax No.: 521-6403
E-mail: tvplan@skyinet.net

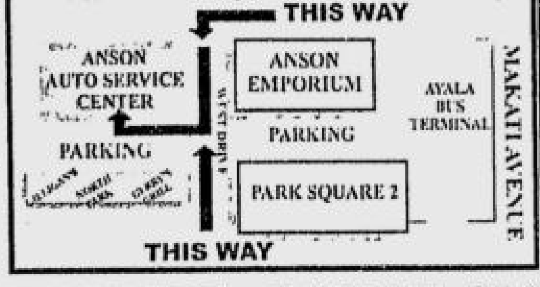
Trusted name since 1986
DLI GENERICS
Exclusively Distributed by: Pacific Pharmaceutical Generics Inc. 459 Quezon Ave., cor Banawe, QC.
Less 20% discount for Senior Citizens
Suggested Retail Price Oct. 8, 2005 • Makatitipid ng higit sa 80%

Analgesic/Antipyretic (Para sa kirot, lagnat o trangkaso)		DLI	Leading Brand	Savings
DLI Mefenamic Acid susp. 50 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	29.00	104.00	75.00/bot
DLI Mefenamic Acid tab. 500 mg	✓	2.00	20.85	18.85/tab
DLI Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	26.00	63.50	37.50/bot
DLI Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓	0.70	2.45	1.75/tab
Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)				
DLI Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓	3.00	8.95	5.95/cap
DLI Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	4.40	15.75	11.35/cap
DLI Amoxicillin drops 125 mg/1.25 ml/10 ml	✓	38.00	80.75	42.75/bot
DLI Amoxicillin susp. 125 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	42.00	98.50	56.50/bot
DLI Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	54.00	144.00	90.00/bot
DLI Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	7.70	14.15	6.45/cap
DLI Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.70	37.75	34.05/cap
DLI Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	49.00	394.75	345.75/bot
DLI Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.70	26.00	23.30/tab
DLI Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.50	14.80	12.30/cap
DLI Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓	31.00	115.75	84.75/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)				
DLI Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	30.00	74.75	44.75/bot
DLI Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓	2.50	12.25	9.75/cap
DLI Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	29.00	87.25	58.25/bot
Anti-diarrhea (Para sa Pagtatae)				
DLI Loperamide cap 2mg	✓	1.30	10.25	8.95/cap

Mabibili sa sumusunod at sa mga botikang abot-kaya ang halaga.
Quality na gamot, sa presyong mas abot!!!
BOTIKA NG BAYAN Gamot na Mabisa at Abot-kaya
Carlos SuperDrug
COMMANDER SHOPPERS DRUG Tel.: 776-0588
EMILENE'S PHARMACY
Rose Pharmacy
Watsons
For factory prices visit: www.DLI-Generics.com for complete product & price information If out of stock, call 711-3933 712-4990 743-1636



FOR ALL YOUR AUTO REPAIR AND SERVICE NEEDS...
NAME IT! WE'VE GOT IT!
Anson Auto Service Center
LOWEST PRICE YOU EXPECT IN THE TIME YOU WANT
DRIVE IN FOR A CHECK-UP!
SEE THE DIFFERENCE AND FEEL THE RESULTS.
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
AYALA CENTER, A. ARNAIZ AVENUE (FORMERLY PASAY ROAD), CORNER WEST DRIVE, MAKATI CITY
8922212 • 8922213 • 8922214
8867552 • 8867551



OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY

GREAT SUMMER CRUISES
RoyalCaribbean INTERNATIONAL Get out there.™
Celebrity X Cruises

7-NIGHT ALASKA
7N ALASKA FJORDS CRUISE
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "VISION OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 19 & 26 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 799.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 1,849.00
3rd/4th Passenger: 379.00 1,429.00
7N ALASKA NORTHBOUND GLACIER CRUISE
Onboard Celebrity's "SUMMIT"
SAILING DATE: 20 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 710.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 1,710.00
7N HUBBARD GLACIER CRUISE
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "SERENADE OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 28 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 1,099.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 1,999.00
7N ALASKA HUBBARD GLACIER CRUISE
Onboard Celebrity's "MERCURY"
SAILING DATE: 19 & 26 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 760.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 1,810.00
3rd/4th Passenger: 330.00 1,380.00

6, 7, & 12-NIGHT EUROPE
6N MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "SPLENDOUR OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 15 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 464.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 1,464.00
7N GREEK ISLES AND TURKEY CRUISE
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "SPLENDOUR OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 21 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 1,144.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 2,144.00
7N MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "VOYAGER OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 27 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 1,096.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 1,996.00
12N SCANDINAVIA & RUSSIA CRUISE
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "JEWEL OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 14 May 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 2,054.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 2,954.00

7-NIGHT EASTERN/WESTERN CARRIBEAN & 7-NIGHT MEXICAN RIVIERA
7N EASTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "VOYAGER OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 01 April 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 570.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 1,770.00
7N EASTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "EXPLORER OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 02 April 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 430.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 1,630.00
7N WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "MARINER OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 09 & 23 April 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 640.00 FLY/CRUISE $ 1,840.00
7N MEXICAN RIVIERA CARIBBEAN CRUISE
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "VISION OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: 16 & 23 April 2006
Starting From: CRUISE ONLY $ 510.00 FLY/CRUISE $1,410.00
***All rates and cabin availability are subject to change without prior notice
Call your preferred travel agent or Royal Caribbean & Celebrity Cruises
Manila:Tel. Nos. (632) 894-3957, 892-2702 to 03 • Fax (632) 892-2790 • e-mail: rylcaribbean@arpanair.com.ph
Cebu: Tel. Nos. (032) 255-6095 to 96 • Fax (032) 254-5344 • e-mail: ftdcebu@yahoo.com
Experience your own virtual cruise adventure at www.royalcaribbean.com Get out there® or visit www.celebrity.com

China blasts scrapping of Taiwan unification body

BEIJING/TAIPEI—CHINA CONDEMNED TAIwan President Chen Shui-bian on Tuesday for scrapping a council on eventual unification, calling it a provocation creating further tension in one of Asia's most dangerous flashpoints.

But the statement from the Communist Party's Central Office for Taiwan Affairs and the cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office stopped short of threatening war against the self-ruled island, which Beijing has vowed to attack if it formally declares statehood.

On Monday, Chen declared an end to the National Unification Council and its 15-year-old unification guidelines, defying warnings from Beijing and Washington, the island's main arms supplier and trading partner.

The move by Taiwan's lame-duck president complicates any future talks on reunification. Taipei newspapers said it could be the first of many to bolster Chen's claim to be the leader of the island's pro-independence movement.

"His further escalation of secessionist activities will no doubt stoke tensions and trigger a serious crisis in the Straits," Beijing's state-run China Daily said in an editorial.

With two years to run in his second four-year term, Chen appears to have given up hope of reconciling with a China that refuses to deal with him directly and instead is focusing on his original independence-minded support base.

"Having achieved little during the past six years in office and with only two more to go, Chen now hopes to secure a legacy as the spiritual leader of (the) Taiwan independence movement," Taiwan's China Post said in an editorial.

Democratic Taiwan has governed itself since its split from the mainland at the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949.

China's joint statement, carried by the official Xinhua news agency, said Beijing opposed independence but was committed to peaceful unification. It pledged to boost personnel, economic and cultural exchanges as well as work for direct trade and transport links—banned by Taiwan for decades due to security fears.

"Our most urgent task now is to resolutely oppose and prevent Chen Shui-bian from engaging in 'de jure Taiwan independence' activities through 'constitutional changes'," the statement said.

The statement singled out Chen and did not attack Taiwan or Chen's Democratic Progressive Party, leaving room for manoeuvre in the future.

Defending his decision, Chen said in a speech marking the island's Peace Memorial Day on Tuesday that he had merely allowed Taiwan people to be their own masters.

Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Bombs kill 10 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Three bombs hit Baghdad on Tuesday, and police said one of them killed at least 10 people. The bombs exploded as former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was expected to return to court for the resumption of his trial. Earlier, bombs exploded at the shrine Saddam built over his father's grave in his hometown of Tikrit north of Baghdad, police and local officials said. The bombing of a Shi'ite shrine last week plunged post-war Iraq into its gravest crisis, setting off sectarian violence that killed at least 200 people.

Reuters

France starts vaccination program

PARIS—French authorities began a limited vaccination programme of ducks and geese against bird flu Monday, as the lethal H5N1 strain made further inroads in Africa and international experts met in Paris to discuss ways of fighting the epidemic. Health officials in the southwest French department of the Landes started the inoculation of flocks of birds intended for production of foie gras, in an operation that was expected to take several weeks. Geese on a farm at the village of Classun were the first to receive an injection to the neck containing a vaccine based on the related H5N2 virus. Booster shots are required after four weeks.

AFP

Saddam ends hunger strike

BAGHDAD—Saddam Hussein has ended a hunger strike he began earlier this month to protest against the conduct of his trial, his chief lawyer said on Monday, a day before the ousted Iraqi leader is due back in court. Deputy chief lawyer, Khamis al-Obeidi, said Saddam's defence team would attend Tuesday's session after staging a boycott. "The president maintained his hunger strike for 11 days but was forced to end it for health reasons," chief defence attorney Khalil Dulaimi, who met Saddam for seven hours in Baghdad on Sunday, told Reuters.

Reuters

Lawmakers challenge Dubai ports deal

WASHINGTON—US lawmakers pressed ahead with efforts on Monday to reexamine whether a state-owned Arab company should run key American port operations, even after the White House agreed to a deeper security review of the deal. It emerged in a Senate hearing that the Coast Guard warned late last year that it could not be sure whether the company, Dubai Ports World, might support terrorism. Some lawmakers seized on the disclosure as vindicating their efforts to slow or stop the transaction on national security grounds.

Reuters

VOLCANOLOGISTS work at an excavation site north of the crater at Mount Tambora in Indonesia. AP

Scientists find lost Indonesian civilization buried by volcano

NARRAGANSETT, RHODE ISland—Scientists have found what they believe are traces of the lost Indonesian civilization of Tambora, which was wiped out in 1815 by the biggest volcanic eruption in recorded history.

Mount Tambora's cataclysmic eruption on April 10, 1815, buried the inhabitants of Sumbawa Island under searing ash, gas and rock and is blamed for an estimated 88,000 deaths. The eruption was at least four times more powerful than Mount Krakatoa's in 1883.

Guided by ground-penetrating radar, researchers from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the Indonesian Directorate of Volcanology recently dug in a gully where locals had found ceramics and bones. They unearthed the remains of a thatch house, pottery, bronze and the carbonized bones of two people, all in a layer of sediment dating to the eruption.

University of Rhode Island volcanologist Haraldur Sigurdsson, the leader of the expedition, estimated that 10,000 people lived in the town when the volcano erupted in a blast that dwarfed the one that buried the Roman town of Pompeii.

The eruption shot 363 million metric tons of sulfuric gases into the atmosphere, causing global cooling and creating what historians call "The Year Without a Summer." Farms in Maine suffered crop-killing frosts in June, July and August. In France and Germany, grape and corn crops died, or the harvests were delayed.

The civilization on Sumbawa Island has intrigued researchers ever since Dutch and British explorers visited in the early 1800s and were surprised to hear a language that did not sound like any other spoken in Indonesia, Sigurdsson said. Some scholars believe the language more closely resembled those spoken in Indochina.

AP

BDO UNIBANK BANCO DE ORO
SUPER CHARGED AUTO LOAN
Promo period: March 1 to July 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1221 Series of 2006
FREE Gas worth up to P10,000 in Caltex Prepaid Cards!
SUPER Value HOME LOAN
Promo period: March 1 to July 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1221 Series of 2006
FREE Gift Certificates from Our Home worth up to P15,000!
SUPER LO
SUPER PR
Over P2 million
2 draws! 60 win
Greater chance of
as low a
Choose any one of BDO's Supe
extra-added values and a
P100,000 richer in a lu
Call 631-8000 or 1-800-10-6318000 toll free toc
Available in Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan, Batangas, San Fernando (Pampanga), Dagupan, Baguio, Cebu, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Cagayan de Oro and

Iran expanding uranium enrichment – UN

VIENNA—IRAN IS FORGING AHEAD with a nuclear fuel enrichment program in defiance of world pressure and stonewalling UN probes spurred by fears it secretly wants atomic weapons, a UN watchdog report said on Monday.

The report by International Atomic Energy Agency director Mohamed ElBaradei was circulated to IAEA board members before they meet on March 6 to discuss it. The report will be forwarded to the UN Security Council, which could consider sanctions.

"It is regrettable and a matter of concern that the uncertainties related to the scope and nature of Iran's nuclear programme have not been clarified after three years of intensive agency verification," said the report, obtained by Reuters.

"We are not yet at the point to be able to conclude that this is a (peaceful nuclear program)," said a senior official familiar with IAEA investigations, who asked not to be named.

The report said Iran had begun vacuum-testing a cascade of 20 centrifuges—machines that purify uranium UF6 gas into fuel suitable for nuclear power plants or, if enriched to high levels, for bombs—at its Natanz pilot enrichment plant.

Iran had also begun substantial renovations of Natanz's system handling UF6. IAEA monitoring had been impaired by Iran's removal of agency safeguards seals from centrifuge-related raw materials and components, the report said.

Tehran had further told the IAEA it would start installing the first 3,000 of a planned 50,000 centrifuges in the fourth quarter of 2006, the 11-page report went on.

Some 3,000 centrifuges of the type Iran has at Natanz working nonstop for a year would produce the 20 kg of highly enriched uranium (HEU) needed for one atomic warhead, nuclear analysts say.

Iran's moves ended a 2 1/2-year enrichment moratorium agreed during since-collapsed talks with EU powers which had offered incentives if it curbed its nuclear ambitions, and spurred the IAEA board to report Tehran to the Security Council on Feb. 4.

"ElBaradei has now reported Iran's intention to go beyond so-called R&D (research and development) and begin installing centrifuges in a full-scale enrichment facility. That's a significant escalation," said a senior Western diplomat.

"Today's report reinforces the board's decision to report Iran to the Security Council since it validates ... international mistrust in the peaceful nature of its program.

"It shows how Iran in the face of growing international concern continues its calculated approach to produce material necessary for nuclear weapons," the diplomat added.

Iran denies seeking nuclear arms, saying its atomic energy programme aims solely to generate electricity. But it hid nuclear fuel development from the IAEA for 18 years until 2003 and calls for Israel's destruction, stoking Western suspicions. *Reuters*

" Statistically the largest single purchase
you make in your life would be your house,
why not get the best lock to go with it..."

SCHLAGE.

AUTHORIZED DEALERS:
CHAM SAMCO & SONS INC. 243-1561 • LIM YEE WAN CO. INC. 242-9254 • UNION HARDWARE CO. INC. 733-8131

MANILA: Apo Mercantile 734-3476 • Asiaco Comm 733-2176 • Chun Muk Hdwr 733-7330 • Edan Hdwr 253-8242 • Finest Mdsg 242-4874 • Four Winds Comm 733-5649 • Glory Cons Sup 733-5314 • Insular Cons Sup 733-1996 • Luzon Sales 733-2810 • MacKenzie Hdwr 733-5338 • Rosewood Hdwr 733-7367 • Screw Master Hdwr 734-4380 • Unisia Mdsg 733-7354 • Worldwide Hdwr 521-5218 • **ALABANG:** Ace Hdwr - Festival Mall 850-3909 • Alabang Home Depot 771-1629 • **LAS PIÑAS:** Ace Hdwr - SM Southmall 806-7414 • Wilcon Bldrs Depot I 809-9106 • **QUEZON CITY:** Ace Hdwr - SM Fairview 938-9013 • AGB Macbuild Corp 366-1428 • Asian Home Hdwr 714-1176 • Benesco Cons Sup 727-4532 • Everest Lbr 727-1338 • Mansion Mktg 912-4533 • Osaka Lbr 727-4053 • Rational Hdwr 727-0111 • VS Hdwr 365-6799 • Wilcon Bldrs Depot II - Balintawak 362-8268 • Wilcon Bldrs Depot III - Libis 634-8387 • Wilcon Bldrs Depot VI - Mindanao Ave 935-5051 • **MAKATI/TAGUIG:** Ace Hdwr - SM Makati 892-5905 • Ayala Bldrs 889-9533 • MC Home Depot - Fort 815-4759 • MC Home Depot - Magallanes 893-3070 • Unisia Mdsg 831-7953 • Unity Cons 833-4844 • Wilcon Bldrs Depot V 893-3120 • **SAN JUAN:** HK Hdwr726-3699 • Y2K Screw Hdwr 724-2151 • **MANDALUYONG/PASIG:** Ace Hdwr - SM Megamall 633-1485 • ACG Bldrs 533-6650 • Evan Bldrs 531-0893 • Hong Kong Hdwr 633-7027 • MC Home Depot - Ortigas 636-6944 • Ortigas Hdwr Cntr 634-3059 • Ortigas Home Depot 636-0772 • Thompson Hdwr 721-9471 • **CALOOCAN:** St. George Trdg 363-9405

ALSO AVAILABLE AT LEADING PROVINCIAL HARDWARE & CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY STORES NATIONWIDE.

NEW! QUICKWRAP
100% Food Grade
QUICKWRAP
• Ideal for wrapping baked goodies, ensaymada, & brownies, Plastic liner for take-out foods and freezer food wrapper.
Also Available:
ROLLO Sandwich Bag
ROLLO ALL PURPOSE BAG
ROLLO SANDWICH BAG
Equally important as your sandwich
ROLLO ALL PURPOSE BAG
Ideal for meat, fish, vegetables, desserts, etc.
basic™
AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING SUPERMARKETS

SUPERlite Personal Loan
0.99%*
Promo period: March 1 to July 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1221 Series of 2006
FREE Comprehensive Family Accident Insurance up to P300,000!
ANS,
RIZES!
er Loans for those
chance to be
ucky draw!
in prizes!
nners!
winning!
ShopMore MasterCard
Promo period: Until March 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0405 Series of 2006
FREE SM Advantage Card;
s 0.88% balance transfer rate;
FREE Annual Fee on the 1st year!
BD Consumer Lending
Simply Super!
lay!
Davao City
See fliers for details. Terms and conditions apply. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0408 Series of 2006

It's easy – every availed loan account or activated BDO Credit Card from March 1 to December 31, 2006, automatically gets a raffle number.

Get a chance to win any of these Super Prizes:

1st Prize:	5 winners of P100,000 each
2nd Prize:	1 winner of Living Room Showcase, 1 winner of Bedroom Showcase from Our Home
3rd Prize:	3 winners of 1 Laptop PC each
4th Prize:	5 winners of P30,000 worth of SM Silver Gift Certificates each
5th Prize:	5 winners of P20,000 worth of groceries from SM Supermarket each
6th Prize:	10 winners of P10,000 worth of Caltex Prepaid Cards each

Draw Dates:
September 15, 2006 and
February 15, 2007

Guaranteed Low Rates!
Fast Processing!
Earn Rewards Points!

BD Rewards
Our Home
CALTEX
GENERALI PILIPINAS

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 21 No. 83

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

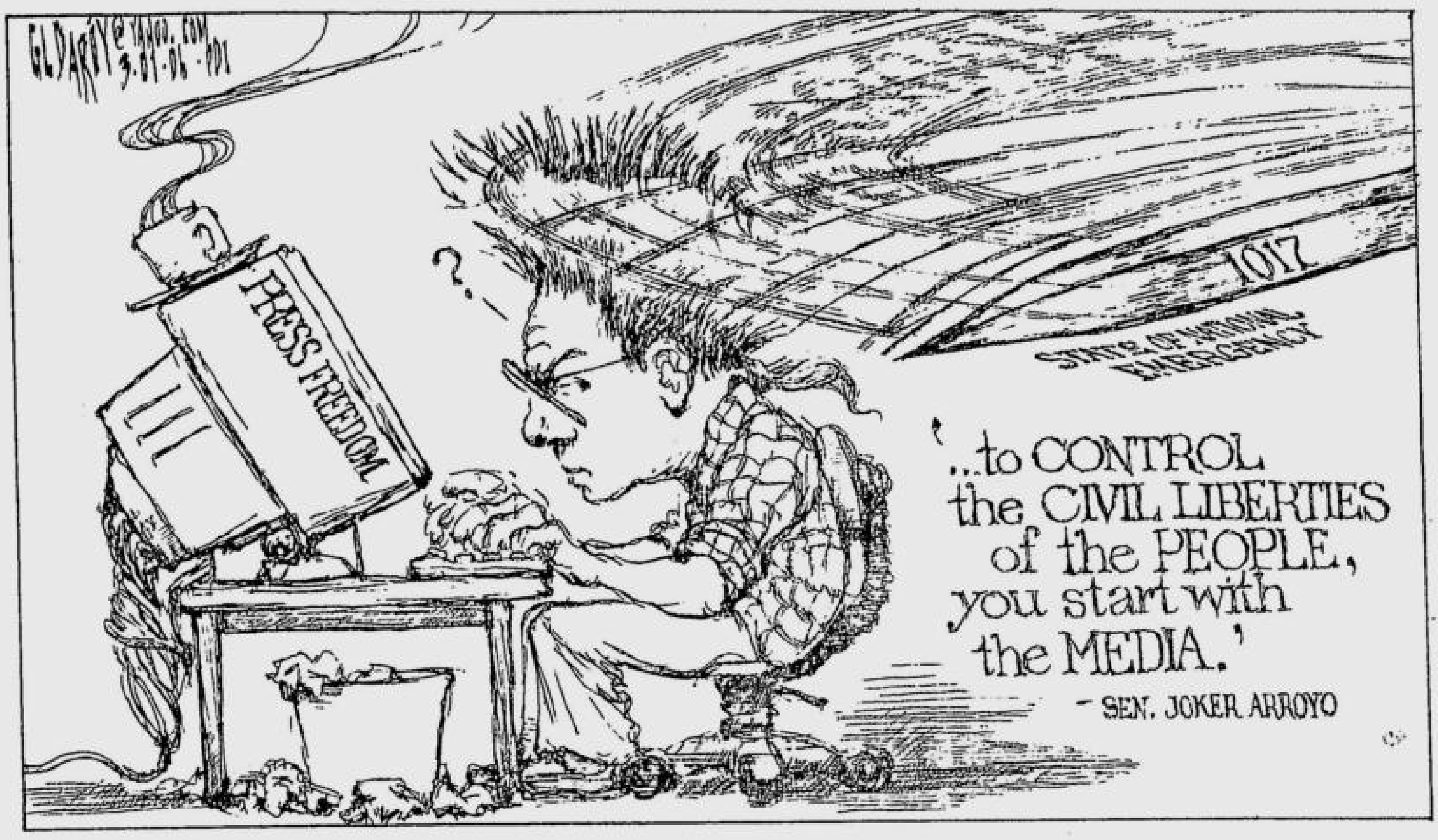
The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **David O. Valdes**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

Readers' Advocate **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.


GLDARYE@YAHOO.COM
3.01.06 - PDI
?
PRESS FREEDOM
1017
STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY
'...to CONTROL the CIVIL LIBERTIES of the PEOPLE, you start with the MEDIA.'
- SEN. JOKER ARROYO

Diminishing space

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO SHOULD GIVE Rep. Imee Marcos and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada a medal. Every time public passions run high, the outrage begins to deflate the moment the two of them appear on the scene. They are living antidotes to People Power.

Of course, it is not only the targets of People Power who have helped to defang it. The crowd-control and other tactics perfected by a beleaguered administration make any manifestation of People Power impossible. An essential safety valve has thus been been shut off.

People Power, lest anyone forget, gave birth to our present democracy. It is enshrined in the present Constitution, and is a manifestation of a historical tradition as old as the Katipunan itself: the right of a people to exercise their sovereignty, in the streets if need be. Presuming they are irritated enough to make their feelings known, Filipinos have a tendency to want to express their feelings peacefully, if noisily.

The result? Two days ago, in a privilege speech, Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. made a sobering observation: "Indeed, no matter how firmly united though few her political foes, President Arroyo can never seem to generate more than a vast indifference behind her while she has only the military to protect her in front. The real danger, which others might call the golden opportunity, is that, absent people power, the military will be the only arbiter of her fate and our democracy."

We leave to the Supreme Court the determination of whether the President is acting within the bounds of her authority. However we cannot be silent in the face of how, in the absence of clear rules and regulations to keep its actions within acceptable bounds, the administration is clearly trying to push the envelope, as far as restricting the democratic space is concerned. Repression is not merely an instrument of last resort; it's invocation is often the death-rattle not only of democracy, but of any government that employs it. To proclaim that the nation must undergo some kind of repression in order to keep it free may not be outright tyranny, but it is the bugle call from the armed camp of those with a tyrannical state of mind.

Diminishing the democratic space can only lead, as it is leading, to a national fit of claustrophobia, leading to panic and terror.

How can the fears be made to abate, the pressure reduced, the hardening of positions prevented? If a national consensus exists, it is along the lines that the question of legitimacy must be addressed. Not set aside, or ignored, or stamped out.

The President claims she's supported by a "silent majority." She is quick to point to local governments as the enthusiastic bailiwick of her support. She denounces all those questioning her legitimacy as representing an intolerable defiance of the public will, as expressed in the last elections. If that is the case, she should consider throwing herself at the mercy of the people. Then she can mobilize her supposed bastions of support.

After the impeachment process failed—not on the merits of the accusations, but rather due to the loyalty of her political allies—it seems clear that the public continues to insist on some kind of determination of the legitimacy of her presidency. She should find a way to satisfy this wish. After all, a democratic leader is accountable not only to the majority, imagined or otherwise, in her camp, she is also accountable to the minority who deserve to have their concerns addressed.

In a last-ditch effort to preserve the democratic space, all sort of proposals are being put forward. One proposal is a "bullet amendment," cutting short the President's term, which, if approved by Congress, requires a plebiscite. That plebiscite would serve as a referendum on Ms Arroyo. It would not prevent, after that question is resolved, further efforts directed at Charter change. Another proposal is simply to throw the question of letting the President continue holding office directly to the people. Such a plebiscite would ask the Filipino people to state whether they want her to remain in office or not.

Is the President's boast all bluff? Or is she afraid to hear the real voice of the people? Or would she prefer to continue pursuing the reckless road she has taken, the perpetual state of conflict our country is in?

Journalists hit gov't assault on press freedom

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PLARIDEL, THE ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALists, has issued a statement criticizing the assault on freedom of the press, speech and expression brought about by President Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation No. 1017 declaring a "state of national emergency." The proclamation was immediately followed by a police raid on the offices of the opposition newspaper The Daily Tribune and the arrest of selected personalities.

"Civil liberties are irreparably impaired without press freedom," the statement said. "[For] a free press is the people's defense against deception, intimidation, and subjugation from forces inimical to their welfare."

Here is the complete text of that statement:

It's a travesty in our history that we have to argue the inviolability of the freedom of speech and expression, familiarly known as the Freedom of the Press, in a free, democratic, and open society.

In the 19th century, Jose Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar (Plaridel), Graciano Lopez Jaena, and other illustrious Filipinos exiled themselves, formed the Propaganda Movement, published La Solidaridad, fought as writers, forebears of journalists, for Filipino freedom. Inherent in the struggle is the freedom of the press.

In the 12 years of martial rule, Filipino journalists along with the freedom fighters wrote, again in exile, while those who remained in the country did so clandestinely—as virtual exiles.

Today, Proclamation 1017 patently exiles journalists through censorship and in doing so banishes in exile the bedrock liberty of a democratic society.

The government's imposition of "standards," intimidating sectors in media into asking for "guidelines" from government, is without precedent in a democracy. It is not even sanctioned by our Constitution, which provides that even under martial law, civil liberties will be respected.

History clearly shows that civil liberties are irreparably impaired without press freedom.

History shows that a free and independent press is a conservative rather than a disruptive force of a free society. The press does not subvert but instead promotes democracy, that by freely reporting on events and freely and vigorously commenting on them, a free people is able to protect itself from the inevitable abuse of power. A free press is the people's defense against deception, intimidation, and subjugation from forces inimical to their welfare.

Only in despotic regimes is a free press considered a subversive force, for it is subversive of the arbitrary exercise of power, subversive of conditions that "exalts the few over the degradation of the many," subversive of the despotism of armed duplicity.

Let lawyers and constitutionalists argue the legal merits of Proclamation 1017.

We in Plaridel need no arguments to justify the freedom of the press. We find it degrading to have to argue for a sacrosanct freedom that is the shining mark of civil society and the one guarantor of every man's life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

A government, nay, a free society, that cannot see this has already enslaved itself.

* * *

What's happening to the Arroyo administration? It seems that in its single-minded preoccupation to ensure the survival of one person, it has totally forgotten or abandoned governance. This story is just one example of the breakdown in governance.

Our ambassador to Romania, Noel Cabrera, came home with his family to undergo emergency surgery. While being prepared for the surgery at the Kidney Transplant Institute in Quezon City, he received a phone call from his staff in Romania.

"Why did you not tell us that you are going to resign?" the caller asked.

Cabrera was surprised. He had not resigned. He had simply filed a medical leave of absence for his operation here. He had planned to return to his post in a week's time after the operation.

But during that brief time, a new ambassador to Romania had been appointed and confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. The process of appointment and confirmation was hush-hush. Cabrera was not even given a hint that he would be replaced. It was the Philippine Embassy in Romania that learned about it first before he did. And yet he is only a few kilometers away from the Department of Foreign Affairs and only a phone call away. In spite of his nearness to the powers-that-be, he was the last to know of his dismissal. Until now, there is no formal notification of his dismissal.

Outgoing ambassadors are usually given at least six months' notice so they have time to prepare, pack their things, transfer their children to another school, pay their bills and transfer their quarters to the next occupant, and say their farewells to the diplomatic community. No such thing was accorded to Cabrera. News of his dismissal came to him like a bolt from the blue.

Cabrera is perplexed. What happened? Appointment and confirmation by the Commission on Appointments take, on the average, about six months. Yet during those six months, nobody in the DFA or Malacañang or anybody else told him, or hinted, that he was going to be replaced. Not that he wants to cling to his position, he said. He just wants to know why he wasn't told. Why the person who holds the position was the last person to know that he would be replaced. He wonders at this lack of protocol and courtesy.

Cabrera and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo were quite close, both of them being among the first appointees to GMA's Cabinet. Cabrera does not recall any problem with Malacañang either, when he was press secretary and later. So why was this done to him? he wonders.

Why indeed?

Backlash

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW A HEARTWARMING SIGHT LAST SUNday in Psyche Roxas' place in Quezon City called Newsdesk. The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines called for a gathering of journalists to talk about GMA's attack on press freedom, and they turned up in full force. The major networks and newspapers were there, along with the foreign media (I know this because I got interviewed by Reuter, a Japanese newspaper, the Voice of America and three local networks), and they were in a fighting mood.

One of the best things I heard there came from someone who said the curtailment of press freedom was not a threat, it was already being carried out. It was patent in the efforts to shut down the Tribune. I agreed completely and quoted that line from Brecht I used in last Monday's column. You say nothing when the Nazis come to take your neighbor because he is a Jew and a communist, they will one day come for you. Never has that thought taken on an exceptional level of urgency in these parts. Over the last few days, the media have fought back over the case of the Tribune.

But the best thing I heard there came from our publisher Gani Yambot who reminded the world of what Thomas Jefferson said that between a government without a free press and a free press without a government, he would readily choose the second. Never has that thought in turn taken on awesome resonance in these parts. Though it's arguable if what we have right now may reasonably be called "government." We haven't had one in some time; what we've had is a bunch of political goons pretending to be so. Yambot vowed that the INQUIRER would not bow down to the imposition, a resolve our newspaper pressed in its editorial last Monday.

But what doubly gladdened my heart was not just the fervor with which the journalists expressed their desire to fight back, it was the unity they showed in the face of tyranny. Media are a jealous lot, competing with one another, indeed often intriguing against each other, with a ferocity and deviousness comparable only to politics. But last Sunday, they came together, resolving that threat to the one was threat to the other, harm to the one was harm to the other.

It might have been a microcosm of Philippine society.

If PP 1017 has served any useful purpose, it is to have done two things. The first is to have brought together the fractured and fractious elements that have been opposing GMA. Our editorial last Saturday said that ironically what drove down the peso last Friday was not the coup, it was 1017. Well, ironically too what is uniting the groups hitherto distrustful of each other is not their capacity for accommodation, it is GMA's effort to crush tolerance. What is uniting the groups hitherto pressing their individual agendas is not their ability to mount brilliant strategies, it is GMA's willingness to mount absolute tyranny. Far from driving a wedge between them through the chilling hand of fear, it is welding them together through the fiery soldering iron of anger.

I've always said every time I hear calls for this country to finally come together that this country has never had any problems uniting. It has done so repeatedly and, as in the case of the two Edsas, completely resplendently. Unfortunately, as the case of the two Edsas also shows, Filipinos find it a lot easier to unite in fighting against a common threat than in fighting for a common good. The direr the threat, the stronger the unity, the direness of the threat melting selfishness or self-interest and even inspiring idealism and self-sacrifice.

PP 1017 is doing exactly that. It does get something right in its "whereas es," which is that the effort to oust GMA comes from the Left and Right. In fact, it comes from the Center as well, which completes the full political spectrum and which represents the entire country. As I said last Monday, that is not a conspiracy, that is an open call to end an illegitimate government by People Power. But until 1017, the Left, Right and Center were pretty much going their separate ways. PP 1017 has just brought them together.

The other useful purpose PP 1017 has served is to dispel the apathy and indifference that have gripped the country over the last several years. You can't find a more cynical group of people than journalists ("been there, seen that"), but if they can rise in passionate protest against the curtailment of their freedoms, so can the rest of the Filipinos.

I myself have been particularly pissed off by that idea of "moving on" in the face of wrongdoing and injustice. And particularly as articulated by that line, "So GMA cheated in the elections, so what?" It's that lowering of standards that has gotten us to this pass. It's that series of concession and compromise, that unceasing and increasing tolerance for abuse, that has brought us to this pass. It's that willingness to let a Malacañang resident get away with stealing the nation's vote that has emboldened her to think she can get away with stealing the nation's freedoms. I have asked again and again: You do not protest what is starkly wrong, what will you "move on" to?

But until PP 1017 came along, few cared to listen. The spiritual fatigue was such that either people just thought to grin and bear it or, as even some pillars of previous Edsas have done, leave for other shores. Or look only at the "positive" side of life, like Pacquiao winning a boxing match. I've read somewhere that some Zen monks have ignited a sudden blast of enlightenment in their disciples by hitting their heads with their staff. Either by divine intervention, or hellish machination, PP 1017 has come along and hit Juan de la Cruz's head with a rock. And so sparked a sudden blast of wakefulness.

Some things you can thank Gloria for

Cracks in the chain of command

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE TURMOIL INSIDE THE MARINES' HEADquarters in Fort Bonifacio last Sunday over the sudden relief of their commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, ended with the announcement of the new commandant, Brig. Gen. Nelson Allaga, that "We will follow the chain of command; we will follow the Constitution and the duly constituted authority."

The Marines who protested against the relief returned to the barracks after a six-hour standoff and after Allaga declared, "I am now acting commandant of the Marines. The Philippine Marine Corps is solid." The country has yet to realize that it escaped by the skin of its teeth a bloody confrontation among soldiers, following the proclamation of a state of national emergency last Friday.

The announcement is not reassuring. It merely papered over the festering tensions inside the Armed Forces which came to the surface after the proclamation. This tension was best described by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former Marine commandant, who mediated to avoid an armed clash inside the camp. He said nobody knew the extent or depth of the unrest. "Not even the chief of staff knows that. Not even the President knows that ... the extent and the depths of this kind. It's boiling inside."

The standoff highlighted cracks in the military chain of command. This break has serious political implications for the President and, in a larger sense, for the civilian sector and the notion of supremacy of civilian authority over the military. The standoff casts doubts on whether the President has solid support in the armed forces, and leaves the door wide open for possible military intervention to put an end to the political crisis that has rocked the government for the past nine months.

The last time the chain of command was ruptured was in 1989, when rebellious soldiers staged a coup that nearly toppled the government of President Corazon Aquino. This rupture resulted in bloody street battles in Makati between loyal government troops and rebel troops.

While it may be true that the government has foiled a plot to overthrow the regime last week by a "tactical alliance" of mainstream opposition politicians, "military adventurers" and "communist rebels" engaged "in a concerted and systematic conspiracy to bring down the duly constituted government in May 2004," ironically the proclamation of a state of national emergency, as a response to the coup attempt, appeared to have moved the country closer to more serious risks of a military takeover. This is so, because the proclamation has now made the civil government dependent for its enforcement on the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces which have been called out "to maintain law and order throughout the Philippines, prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence, as well as any act to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction." Effective enforcement of general orders and decrees issued to implement PP 1017 requires solid military backing and the Fort Bonifacio standoff reveals such backing is uncertain.

The Marine Corps, the toughest striking arm of the AFP, is a key strategic military unit whose loyalty is crucial to the survival of regimes whose political authority faces strong challenges from civilian mass action and rebellious military units. The incident is a microcosm of wider unrest in the Armed Forces.

The emergency proclamation and the Fort Bonifacio showdown have proved to be a moment of truth because of two things: first, divisions in the Armed Forces in regard to the organization's loyalty to the commander in chief are deeper than thought; and second, the government has become hostage to the military as it becomes more dependent on the military if political resistance to the crackdown now being undertaken escalates.

The problem for the government does not come from civil unrest in the streets. Street demonstrations have been put under control following the ban on public demonstrations. And so long as the police and the military are loyal to the government to enforce crowd control measures, the public disorder may be manageable.

But as shown in the Fort Bonifacio episode, there were elements among the Marines who were planning to declare withdrawal of support from the government to join civilian protesters. The civilian groups which assembled at Fort Bonifacio to give support to the protesting Marines were hoping that the standoff would result in the breakaway of the disgruntled Marines and signal more defections from other units in the Armed Forces.

The civilian groups claimed they went to the camp for a prayer rally to "protect" the Marines, but their assembly was a decidedly partisan action on the side of the disgruntled Marines. The civilians went out of their way to meddle in an internal dispute of the military. Their presence could not have helped either side of the dispute. They exposed themselves to being caught in the crossfire.

PP 1017 has clothed the military and police with broad emergency powers, putting them in the position of powerbrokers and kingmakers with more authority than members of Congress and even Cabinet members. With the proclamation, real power to defend the State has effectively shifted to the hands of the soldiers. This opens opportunities for them to take power themselves in the event the crisis deepens.

This enhanced prospect of military intervention is the strongest argument for the President to lift the emergency proclamation.

What to do next?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT? SOMEONE BROUGHT up the question during a press conference called by the "Hyatt 10" last Saturday.

Many people, media folk among them, had apparently been calling and asking what follow-up actions would be mounted after a purported coup try, the declaration of a national emergency by President Macapagal-Arroyo, and the mounting of protest actions, including a huge rally on Ayala Avenue, all in the space of one day.

In reply, former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said people shouldn't wait around for any one leader or group to lead concerted actions in protest of the emergency proclamation and the powers assumed by the police and military. She cited the "creativity" of Filipinos, who responded with individual and home-made symbols of protest—from ribbons to placards to T-shirts—in previous political crises. "Remember, the protests building up to Edsa all began with wearing the 'Ninoy Hindi ka Nag-iisa' pins," reminded Ging Deles, another "H10" stalwart.

Today, five days after that tumultuous Friday, we seem caught in a period of quiet, though we have yet to find out if this is but "the lull before the storm," or the settling in of a deadly silence.

Of course, silencing all opposition seems to be the aim of all the administration's moves, from arresting or threatening to arrest prominent personalities linked to the anti-Arroyo forces to stern warnings to the media, including a raid on an opposition newspaper.

But should silence be the people's response to what's happening in our country?

* * *

ONE response to current events is a letter containing "guidelines" from the Commission on the Social Apostolate of the Jesuit Philippine Province, crafted after "hurried" discussion and discernment of a committee on crisis response. Here are some guidelines, which we can all use to guide our own views and actions on the crisis, as suggested by the Jesuits:

"The crisis of political legitimacy and the crying need for reform of the military are real. Nonetheless, any attempt by factions in the military to seize state power, however well motivated, cannot be supported.

"Such attempts overstep the noble task of the military in a democracy. The consequences of such actions that threaten civilian supremacy over the military will be extremely difficult to reverse and would be seriously harmful for the country's future.

"The experience of countries in which a politicized military has taken state power—what we often refer to as "banana republics"—gives sobering illustrations of these consequences. Once having captured the state, military forces have not given up power easily. A cycle of constant struggles for state control among military elements begins, to the detriment of political stability, democratic freedoms and national development.

"Democracy demands the rule of civilians who are legitimately chosen from and by the people, and not simply kept in power by military might. It is important to recall the principle articulated by the CBCP in its pastoral statement of January 2006: actions that 'condone violence or counter-constitutional means in resolving our present crisis' are not acceptable, especially since they 'would only bring about new forms of injustice, hardships, and greater harm in the future.'

* * *

"THE SERIOUS threat to democratic freedoms involved in Proclamation No. 1017 should be exposed, questioned, and resisted. Even constitutionally mandated emergency powers can be abused if they are exercised disproportionately, to the point of undermining basic rights. It is alarming that, even now, there seem to be indications of this abuse, such as the arrest of civilians without clear bases and charges. This is a serious and unacceptable violation of civil and political rights.

"Furthermore, the present administration's actions towards controlling the media must be resisted. Not only are these moves of questionable constitutionality, but state takeover of media seems morally unjustified, as such a measure would violate the freedom of expression which is a fundamental tenet of democracy.

"We must not be naïve and uncritical. Many groups have taken and will continue to take advantage of the present confusion. We, especially religious and Church groups, must be wary about which groups we identify with, lest we indirectly legitimize and support anti-democratic groups with vested interests.

"The question of the future governance of the country, should the present administration collapse, is not a matter of indifference, but a serious moral consideration. Who assumes power, with what mandate and what agenda, are questions that we must seek answers to from those who would solicit our support.

* * *

"THE PRESENT administration's actions to frustrate legitimate constitutional means of reform and accountability must be held largely responsible for the present crisis. Government's constant attempts to evade accountability and true reform have made the military solution seem attractive and inevitable to some.

"Thus, it is necessary that the following be addressed with greater urgency: the search for truth on the many controversies of the recent past; the revamp of Comelec and other necessary electoral reforms; reforms in the military; and the continuing search for solutions to the problems of poverty and inequality that beset most of our people.

"In this situation, the following are appropriate immediate courses of action:

"Gatherings of prayer for peace and a nonviolent resolution of the crisis;

"Gatherings to exchange reliable information, and to discern collectively in the light of emerging developments;

"Expressions and actions of protest against the curtailments of democratic freedoms in Proclamation No. 1017."

Monuments

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

A COLLEAGUE IN THE POLITICAL SCIENCE Department crossed over to the Department of History last week in search of first-hand accounts, primary source material, on the events of the first, the "original" People Power revolt. I was a reluctant victim trapped into answering the question: What were you doing during those exciting days in February 1986? Perhaps I cut barbed wire in Mendiola, stopped a tank on Edsa, or pocketed one of Imelda Marcos' shoes from Malacañang? She was visibly disappointed when I started my narrative by describing how I made chicken sandwiches. My story wasn't engaging enough, so she didn't want to hear the rest of my story.

But that was what Edsa was all about, many people doing ordinary things toward one lofty purpose. Imagine what would have happened if everyone thought he or she was unable to do anything great and didn't go to Edsa and Mendiola? History would have been completely different.

Last weekend has been equally exciting, with all the futile attempts to get people excited or angry enough to duplicate Edsa 1986 and oust Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Some people were even brazen enough to force parallels between the present state of emergency and martial law. If the present situation was like 1972, these people would be in jail rather than speaking in front TV cameras and radio microphones. Different times require different tactics and we leave the analysis of last week to future historians and other columnists.

It only hit me last week that my students were actually born around that time and have no memory of Edsa except what their parents told them. It's only two decades ago and yet it sounds like ancient history to a new generation. This is why we need books, photographs, films and even monuments.

On what is now Chino Roces Bridge (formerly Mendiola), you will see a statue of Chino, kneeling like a medieval knight without armor and a sword, holding up a cross. Was he religious? I don't think so. The sculptor apparently worked on a photograph of Roces felled by a water cannon with his fist raised in defiance. But why the cross?

There is the hideous bronze Virgin atop the Edsa Shrine, who my students think is directing traffic on that busy intersection. Monuments are supposed to remind us of the past, but they sometimes mean something else to the present. The awkward statue of Ninoy Aquino falling from the airplane stairs is another case in point. If you didn't know your history, you would think he slipped on the poo that the bird on his shoulder left on the stairs.

Then there is the newly inaugurated statue of Salvador "Doy" Laurel on Roxas Boulevard based on a campaign photograph. It is now interpreted as the stance of a gymnast landing triumphantly on the ground after a complex series of turns in the air.

Monuments are meant to help those who view them to remember their past, not just as nostalgia but rather as a guide to the present. Laurel's life was one that was marked by great achievement and great sacrifice. His place in Philippine history is secure, for he served as one of a beacons of light in the dark days of martial law and, of course, he will be remembered for making the supreme sacrifice of his dreams and ambitions by stepping down one rung in the snap presidential elections of 1986 to vice president for the sake of unity and change, for the sake of the greater good. He stepped down and Corazon Aquino became president. If only a monument could be made to speak then maybe we can listen to his words:

"I have discovered the truth of the eternal moral principles that determine the destinies of men and nations. I also realize that the more insufferable the ordeal, the greater must be one's faith in the Unseen Hand. And I am particularly emboldened to remember that at certain crises in my life I prayed for help—and help did come.

"But one thing stands out. I have noticed that whenever I prayed only for myself, I was not always answered, even if what I asked for was good. But whenever I prayed hard for others, I was always answered. And when I prayed for what I believe would lead to His greater glory, what I asked for happened immediately.

"The point is that life is a paradox. To be a good man, you must be good not to yourself but to others. Similarly to be a true leader of men, you should only think of and feel for those you lead. Your thoughts should lead but your heart must follow. The heart must be selfless—and the selflessness must be not only sincere and honest but courageous, since you must be ready to suffer for the righteous cause, consoled only by the thought that history will ultimately vindicate you.

"A final point: selflessness is vital in approaching and resolving problems. Things appear much simpler when one is able to detach oneself from the problem, thus becoming objective and unemotional enough to apply the fundamentals. The self becomes a mere detail that later falls into place."

Maybe Doy Laurel is a piece in the complex jigsaw puzzle that is our recent history and our present situation. Perhaps he should have been a philosopher and a writer instead of a politician. When his personal papers are opened to researchers, we will probably find inspiration and hope for the future.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Thaksin and Arroyo

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE SAME DAY THAT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO DEclared a state of emergency, Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra dissolved parliament and called for snap elections on April 2.

Both Arroyo and Thaksin (the Thai use a person's first name even in media accounts) have been facing strong opposition to their leadership. What we see unfolding is an intriguing tale, not just of two politicians but of two nations struggling with democracy, with implications for many future generations of Thais and Filipinos.

Arroyo and Thaksin became heads of state in 2001, but under different circumstances. Arroyo was hastily sworn in as president following the ouster of Joseph Estrada. Thaksin was elected.

Arroyo comes from a political family, her father having been president 40 years earlier. Thaksin is a self-made person who started out as a police officer, but went into business, starting with computers and building up a huge telecommunications empire. Forbes magazine has listed him among the world's richest persons, with assets worth more than $1 billion.

Thaksin and his political party, Thai Rak Thai (literally, Thai Love Thai), rode on populism rather than any distinct political ideology or program to win 374 out of 500 seats in the Thai parliament. He governs with a style of patronage that appeals to the poor. One of his main accomplishments was the introduction of cheap medical insurance for rural areas.

Arroyo, on the other hand, lacked charisma and was constantly criticized for politicking and being more interested in her prospects of running for president in 2004 than in the nation's welfare. It helped when, in 2002, she declared she would not run as president but later turned her back on that promise.

The year 2004 saw elections in both Thailand and the Philippines. Thaksin's party won fewer seats this time, getting 248 out of 500, but this was still considered a landslide victory.

Arroyo claims she won over Fernando Poe Jr., albeit by a small margin. In 2005, Arroyo was accused of electoral fraud, but attempts to impeach her were blocked in Congress.

Thaksin's popularity has slowly declined through the years, with repeated questions raised about his business interests. He has also been criticized for human rights violations, particularly in the way he handled a crackdown on drug pushers (with 2,500 deaths that were seen as extra-judicial executions) and in the handling of a Muslim insurgency in the south.

Opposition came to a head in January when his family sold their shares in Shin Corp., a large telecommunications company, to the Singapore government's Temasek. Thaksin ran into trouble on two counts. First, he was accused of using loopholes to evade payment of taxes on the $1.3 billion income coming from the sale. Second, Thais are unhappy with the way such a large and vital company has gone to a foreign power.

Turning point

Thaksin stood his ground, claiming there was nothing wrong with the transaction, but opposition continued to grow. In February, a Thai court threw out an appeal to investigate the case, claiming the allegations were not detailed enough.

Criticism of Thaksin began to come from different quarters, including the rectors of several state universities, the government employees' federation, some in the business sector and the political parties. But Thaksin hung on, secure with his control of the Thai House of Representatives and arguing that he could not turn his back on the 17 million Thais who voted him into power.

A turning point came about two weeks ago when Thaksin's own political mentor, Chamlong Srimuang, "disinherited" the prime minister. Chamlong is a highly respected political and religious leader (he is one of the leaders of a Buddhist sect called Santi Asoke). In 1992, Chamlong was one of those who challenged military strongman Gen. Suchinda Klaprayoon and brought the regime down.

In the Philippines, Arroyo's allies in Congress were able to block impeachment hearings, but her popularity ratings have remained negative over the last few months. Rumors of discontent within the military have circulated for several months, culminating with claims of an attempted coup that led Arroyo to declare a state of emergency last Feb. 24.

That same day, Thaksin dissolved the House of Parliament and called for snap elections. Three of the major opposition parties—Democrat, Mahachon and Chart Thai—have said they will boycott the elections.

Twins

The similarities between Thailand and the Philippines are not accidental. I've always felt the two countries are political twins. Both countries are still hobbled by what we call *trapos* or traditional politics, marked by corruption and cronyism. Political scientists call this transactional politics, referring to the wheeling and dealing among the players.

Both countries went through military dictatorships, during which strong non-government organizations and people's organizations emerged. In the Philippines, we saw how this civil society was mobilized for People Power in 1986. Similarly, militant Thai students have played important roles in the past to oust the dictatorships, many losing their lives as they faced up to a much more brutal military establishment.

On the economic front, Thailand was, until the 1970s, less developed than the Philippines and sent its students to the Philippines to study agriculture, engineering, public health. But its leaders pursued a program of rural development, and implemented a strong family planning program. In 1975, Thailand and the Philippines had about the same population of 40 million, with similar levels of development. Today, they have 64 million while we have 84 million. Thailand ranks 73rd in the Human Development Index, we rank 84th.

While Thailand has developed rapidly, it remains plagued, as the Philippines is, by gross income inequality. Both Thaksin and Arroyo claim their economic policies are pro-poor, but have been criticized as having made the rich even richer.

But there are differences between the two. Thaksin's business background shows in the way he negotiates and bargains. The Thai system did help Thaksin, allowing him to dissolve parliament and call for new elections. Ever the populist, he is confident he can tap vast economic and political resources to his advantage, which is why the opposition has called for a boycott.

Arroyo, on the other hand, knows no other world except that of politics. Her model seems to be still another political twin, US President George W. Bush, who took office the same day as she did, on Jan. 20, 2001. Both live in the shadows of fathers who were presidents; and both see the iron fist as the way to rule.

But ultimately, we will have to answer to history, and to our children, not so much about who the most crafty and cunning was among political leaders as on what we did to safeguard our terribly fragile democratic institutions.

Prejudicial to farmers' interests

WE CONDEMN, IN THE STRONGest possible terms, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's issuance of Proclamation 1017 and her subsequent declaration of a state of emergency. Among those crying out in indignation against the proclamation are thousands of small farmers who form part of Centro Saka Inc.'s network of farmer organizations and rural development advocates.

We also condemn the violent dispersal of peaceful demonstrators who were legitimately exercising their right to gather and their freedom of expression. Among those who were truncheoned and drenched by water cannons were small farmers, fisherfolk and rural women leaders who merely participated to peacefully seek redress for the injustice and the insufficient support they have been getting from the government.

Clearly, Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency is a sign of weakness. It demonstrates that she can no longer govern in the normal way. The country is confronted by numerous problems, but declaring a state of emergency is not one of the solutions.

If anything, the issuance of Proclamation 1017 will only make matters worse; it is but a step down the dangerous path to authoritarianism and repression. The warrantless arrest of Prof. Randy David, whose only sin was his participation in a legitimate protest action, is an ominous indication of how far Ms Arroyo is willing to go, to maintain her hold on the reins of power. Her administration's moves do not bode well for the interests of the small farmers.

Declaring a state of emergency at a time when we are supposed to be commemorating the restoration of democracy is an exercise of hubris in its most despicable form. Clearly, it is not in the best interest of the small farmers that Ms Arroyo remains in power. The longer she does, the worse off we all will be.

—OMI ROYANDOYAN,
Centro Saka Inc.,
Philippine Center for Rural
Development Studies,
Rm. 321 PSSC Bdlg.,
Commonwealth Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

Time for Senate-House debate on Charter change

I FIND IT TRAGIC THAT JOSE R. Garcia, director of the Senate Public Relations and Information Bureau, mistook popularity as an indicator of sound legislation.

In his letter (PDI, 2/14/06), he tried but failed to answer the challenge of INQUIRER columnist Belinda Olivares-Cunanan for our esteemed senators to engage the members of the House of Representatives in a debate on Charter reform, an issue of far-reaching implications for the nation. Instead, Garcia pointed out that Senate President Franklin Drilon and the Senate separately ranked higher than Speaker Jose de Venecia and the House in recent popularity ratings.

Popularity has never been a reliable gauge for the aptness of public policy or, for that matter, good governance. The task of leaders is to show people a clear vision for a better future—and a definite roadmap on how to get there, regardless of how popular or unpopular these are.

De Venecia's vision of a parliamentary system and a unicameral parliament—and an eventual federal system—for the country—offers a genuine alternative to our people who seek a way out of a political system that breeds more divisiveness than unity, more hype than real accomplishment.

The proposal to reform the Constitution to establish a unicameral parliament is an idea that has invited much bashing since its infancy, such that little of its merits have been appreciated by the public. The personal insults hurled at Charter reform leaders are dilatory tricks indicative of the present state of our politics.

As the House draws close to fleshing out the full details of its Charter reform proposal, there is no basis for making sweeping and ultimately self-serving accusations that the House majority has "abandoned its duty to defend the public interest on behalf of partisan and local interests," while picturing the Senate as a defender of the public good. Such statements do not help the public at all to make informed decisions.

Perhaps, Garcia should answer the unanswered query of Cunanan: Will the Senate finally engage the House in a debate on Charter reform?

—NOEL A. ALBANO,
deputy secretary general,
Public Relations
and Information Service,
House of Representatives,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Bishops are no Spanish friars

PATRICK CAOILE OF THE PHILIPpine Mines Safety and Environment Association and Manuel Morato of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office likened the Catholic bishops to the Spanish friars, because of the former's pastoral letter expressing their opposition to mining. The two must have forgotten Philippine history.

The Spanish friars kept their mouths shut on the country's inequitable economic setup precisely because they were benefiting from it. They owned large tracts of land, on which they collected rent. They used their position to maintain the status quo.

Today, the members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines are trying to use moral suasion to oppose investments which they believe would not help ease poverty but instead contribute to the destruction of forests and people's livelihoods. If the bishops choose to remain silent, the mining firms and corrupt government officials in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and local government units will have a heyday exploiting the country's natural resources, leaving nothing for future generations.

The principle of separation of Church and State should not be used as an excuse by abusive government officials and exploitative large corporations to stop priests, nuns and bishops from voicing what they believe are just and true.

—RAFFY REY HIPOLITO,
policy advocacy officer,
FoodFirst Information & Action
Network-Philippines,
9B Matulungin St.,
Barangay Central, Quezon City

Why communists oppose mining

I AM A CATHOLIC BUT I WAS shocked by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' call for a total ban on mining—a call that I believe is both illogical and naïve. The whole world will ground to a halt without mining—for then we will have no metals, no cement, no oil, no coal, etc. We will have no trucks, cars, planes, tractors, buildings, bridges, piers, fertilizers, food etc. Only primitive agriculture will be possible, and so billions will starve. In other words, we will be back to the Stone Age.

The CBCP call smacks of pure hypocrisy since the bishops ride in cars made of steel, live in houses made of cement and use electricity which is produced by power plants using either coal or oil for generation. They also eat food derived from crops grown with the aid of fertilizers manufactured mainly from petroleum products.

The controversy started with the Marcopper mine spills which polluted a river in Marinduque. However, I don't recall anyone dying from that incident. Leftists organizations exploited this event as a propaganda tool in seeking a ban on mining. But what we need are mining regulations to prevent or minimize a similar accident in the future. Seeking a total ban on mining is ridiculous and illogical. It is like asking for a total ban on cars and buses since thousands die every year in accidents involving these vehicles.

The Philippines is rich in copper and gold and several other minerals. Mining can bring in tens of billions of dollars and create hundreds of thousands of jobs which this poor country desperately needs. This is the reason why the communists are vehemently against mining since this could help the country progress. It is not surprising that the communists don't want this country to prosper, for the only way they can hope to take over this country is if the people remain poor.

The problem with the bishops is they listen to young priests, some of whom are most likely communist infiltrators. The only way this country can progress is when the government makes it a policy to do the exact opposite of whatever the leftists advocate.

—RICO XERES,
Eisenhower Street,
Greenhills, San Juan, MM

Long live the true spirit of Edsa I

I MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AT THE Edsa Shrine when the country marked the 20th anniversary of the first People Power.

However, I am one with Conrado de Quiros and the rest of truth-loving Filipinos in celebrating the spirit and essence of Edsa I, which is standing up for justice and truth at whatever cost. *Mabuhay ang Pinoy*!

Long live the true spirit of Edsa! Long live the continuing search for truth and struggle for liberation from greed and deceit. More power to De Quiros!

—LUIS BUÑALES JR.,
lisbon_081273@yahoo.com

Erratum

In the Feb. 28 issue, a letter to the editor was titled "Recall Proclamation 1071." The correct number of the proclamation is 1017.

The next big thing is yours for the taking.
All-Terrain
n2
n1
nx4
nx1
HOVER

Introducing a new breed of luxury SUVs, Pick-Ups and All-Terrain vehicles that reshapes the concept of luxury driving in a new light—design that is functional combined with proven technology that is ingeniously practical. All the comforts of luxury driving at a price you can afford. Come and visit our showrooms and gear up for the next big thing.

NEXUS AUTOMOTIVE
Affordable Luxury

Exclusively Assembled and Distributed by: Auto Prominence Corporation 2304 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel.: 888-6550, 888-6551 • Fax: 886-6553 **Authorized Dealers: Auto Prominence Makati Inc.** 2326 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel.: 843-1640/1649, 843-1195 • Fax: 843-3641 **Autostadt Philippines Corporation** 2304 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel.: 817-1061/64/65, 988-6561/62 • Fax: 886-6553 **Auto Prominence Cebu, Inc.** 38 Gorordo Avenue, Cebu City Tel.: (032) 233-3568 • Fax: (032) 233-5733 **Transcor Motors, Inc. (Bacolod)** Araneta Street, Singcang, Bacolod City • Tel.: (034) 435-0221 to 23, 708-007 to 08 • Fax: (034) 433-0331 **Transcor Motors, Inc. (Iloilo)** Sen Benigno Aquino Avenue Diversion Road Iloilo City • Tel.: (033) 320-0952, 509-0404 • Telefax: (033) 320-0537

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF NAGA

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THREE (3) UNITS ASIAN UTILITY VEHICLE

The *City Government of Naga*, through the ***Non-Office Budget for Protective Services Enhancement Fund and Financial Assistance to Naga City Philippine National Police (PNP) for 2006*** intends to apply the sum of ***TWO MILLION ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO THOUSAND (Php2,172,000.00) Pesos***, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for the ***Supply and Delivery of three (3) units Asian Utility Vehicle, Project Reference Number: 2006-021***. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Item No.	Qty.	Unit	Items	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	3	units	GX, GL or similar-type Asian Utility Vehicle, model 2006, colored white, 2.5-liter diesel engine, power-steering, 5-speed manual transmission, with standard accessories as advertised by manufacturer plus: standard police siren with standard police rooftop blinker/ revolving light (horizontal type), painting of city government design on body, and warranty for the first three (3) years or 100,000 kms., whichever comes first	2,172,000.00

The *City Government of Naga* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the ***Supply and Delivery of three (3) units Asian Utility Vehicle***. Delivery of the GOODS is required within ***one (1) month after receipt of Notice to Proceed***. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section I of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who will be determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. **Bidding will be conducted on a per-item basis.**

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *City Government of Naga* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below ***starting on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***Two Thousand (Php2,000.00) Pesos***. The method of payment will be in CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *City Government of Naga* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at 2:00 PM at Metro PESO Conference Room.***

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below before ***2:00 PM on Monday, March 27, 2006.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of the following: ***Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit; or, Bank Guarantee or, Surety Bond***, or, an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **Monday, March 27, 2006 at 2:00 PM at Metro PESO Conference Room**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The *City Government of Naga* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
MR. ZOILO R. BENITO, JR.
c/o BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office
City Hall Compound, Naga City 4400
Tel. No. (054) 811-7198 / (054) 4732053 • Fax No. (054) 811-1286
Email address: bac@naga.gov.ph • Website: www.naga.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ZOILO R. BENITO, JR.
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Feb. 22 & March 1, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bukidnon
MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON
Tel No. 088-3551567 Facsimile number 088-3551323
Website: http://elgu.ncc.gov.ph/ecommunity/quezon-buk

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government of Quezon, Bukidnon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract.

Name of Contract : Construction of Two-Storey Municipal Hall Building Phase II
Location : Libertad, Quezon Bukidnon
Brief Description : Completion of Two-Storey Municipal Hall Building Phase II
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : Php 24,404,268.67

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*	*Time*	*Place*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	March 07-21, 2006	8:00 - 12:00 NN 1:00 - 5:00 PM	BAC Office
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 14-21, 2006	8:00 - 12:00 NN 1:00 - 5:00 PM	BAC Office
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Not later than March 22, 2006	Not later than 5:00 PM	BAC Office
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	April 5, 2006		
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 14 - April 13, 2006	8:00 - 12:00 NN 1:00 - 5:00 PM	BAC Office
6. Preparation of Bids	March 29 - April 27, 2006		
7. Pre-bid Conference	April 28, 2006	1:30 PM	PMC Hall
8. Receipt and Opening of Bids	May 12, 2006	1:30 PM	PMC Hall

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Office at Municipal Hall Building Poblacion Quezon, Bukidnon, upon their submission of a LOI. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos *(P3,000.00)* to the Municipal Treasurer's Office.

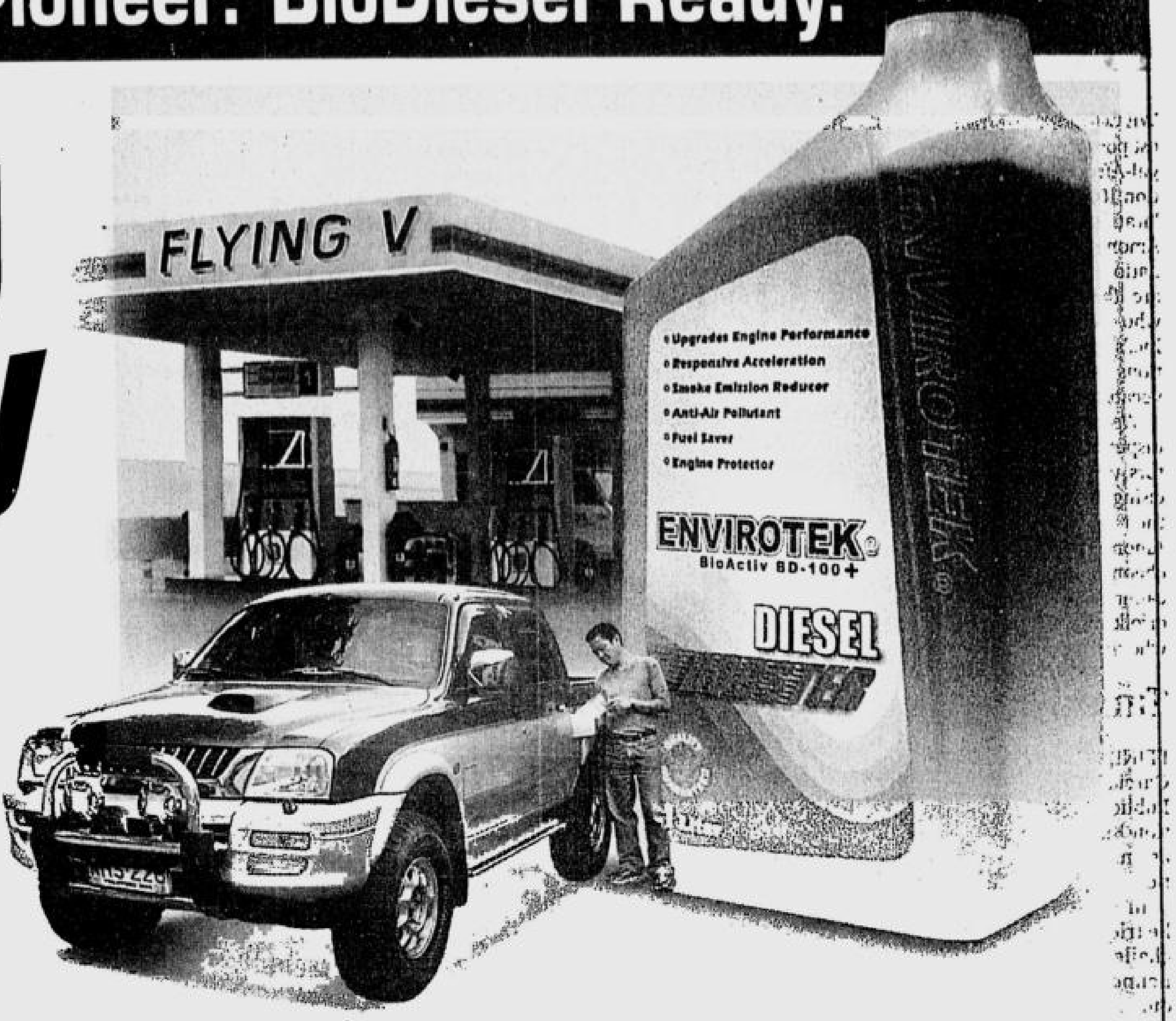
The Local Government of Quezon, Bukidnon assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) WILFREDO G. TOLEDO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - March 1 & 7, 2006)

FLYING V. BioDiesel Pioneer. BioDiesel Ready.



Leading the way while others follow.

Coco BioDiesel ENVIROTEK BD100+ Diesel Additive, available at all Flying V stations!

Flying V leads the way to better diesel performance, cleaner air and big savings with these coco biodiesel-based products: **ENVIROTEK BD100+ FUEL ADDITIVE AND ENVIROTEK PREMIUM PRE-BLENDED BIODIESEL FUEL!**

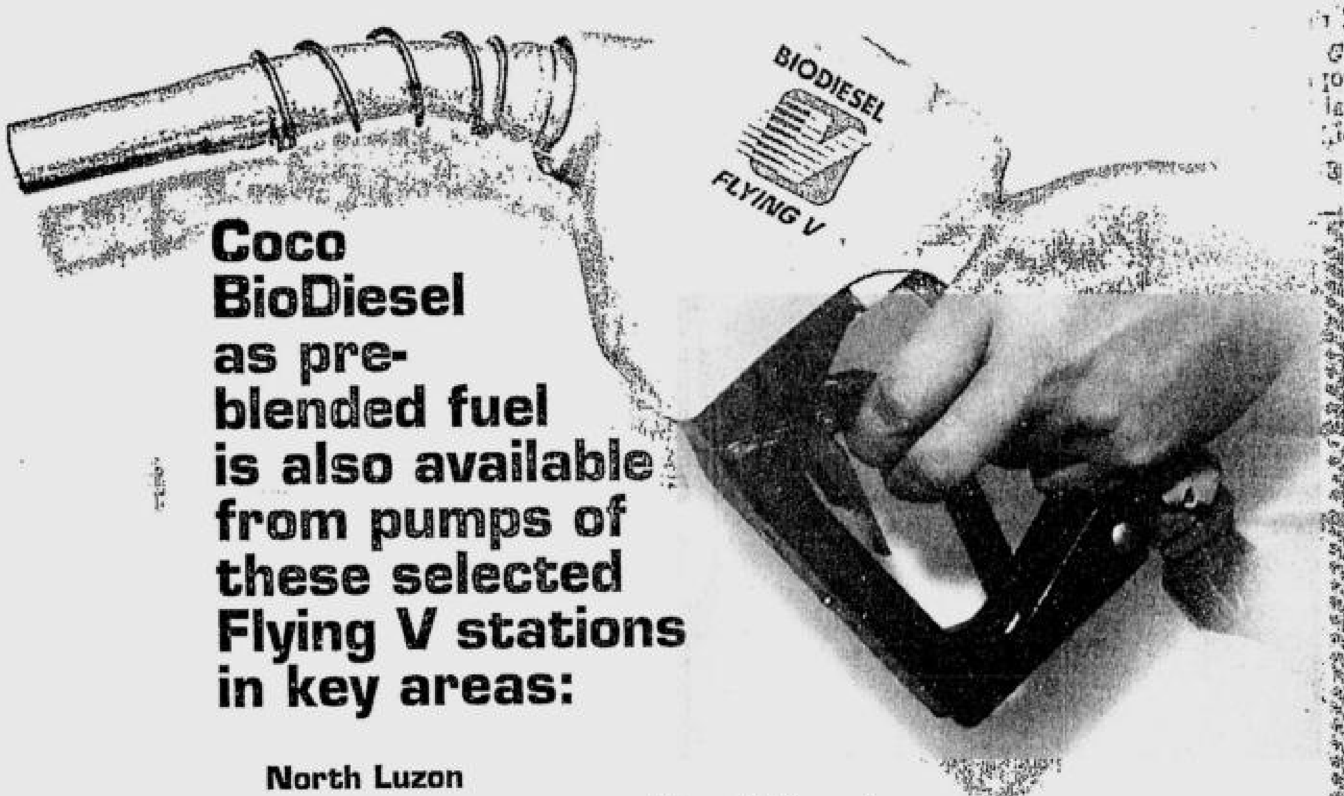
Try any of them and experience these benefits:

- Completely cleans and lubricates... for improved performance!
- More complete combustion... for vastly increased mileage!
- Reduced exhaust emission... for clean air and healthy environment!

Good for the Economy:

- Reduce the national dependence on imported fossil fuels, translating to huge savings in foreign exchange, and promotes our energy security!
- A big boost to our local agri-industry!

FEEL THE DIFFERENCE!
TRY FLYING V BIODIESEL AT THE PRICE OF REGULAR DIESEL,
AVAILABLE AT THE LISTED STATIONS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!



Coco BioDiesel as pre-blended fuel is also available from pumps of these selected Flying V stations in key areas:

North Luzon	
La Union	Flying V Lingsat, San Fernando
Central Luzon	
Pangasinan	Flying V Binalonan
	Flying V Sison
Nueva Ecija	Flying V Zaragoza
	Flying V Gapan
Zambales	Flying V Subic
	Flying V Olongapo
	Flying V Botolan
Tarlac	Flying V Capas
Pampanga	Flying V Balibago, Angeles
Bulacan	Flying V Sta. Maria
Greater Manila Area	
Valenzuela	Flying V East Canumay
	Flying V Paso de Blas
	Flying V Valenzuela
Novaliches	Flying V Balongbato
Quezon City	Flying V Aurora Blvd.
	Flying V E. Rodriguez
	Flying V Araneta Avenue
	Flying V New York, Cubao
	Flying V P. Tuazon, Cubao
Manila	Flying V Gagalangin, Tondo
San Juan	Flying V Santolan Road
Pasig	Flying V Legaspi St., Pasig City
Marikina	Flying V A. Fernando Avenue
Cainta	Flying V Ortigas Extension
Antipolo	Flying V Sumulong Highway
	Flying V Masinag
Parañaque	Flying V Tambo
South Luzon	
Cavite	Flying V Noveleta
Laguna	Flying V Mabitac
	Flying V Turbina, Calamba
	Flying V. Balibago Road, Sta. Rosa
Batangas	Flying V Tambo, Lipa
	Flying V Tumaway, Talisay
Quezon	Flying V Infanta
Davao	Flying V Bago Aplaya, Davao City
	Flying V Magsaysay cor. Guerero St. Davao City
	Flying V Bankerohan, Matina, Davao City

FLYING V
BioDiesel pioneer. BioDiesel ready.

The Flying V Coco BioDiesel initiative has been intensively tested and endorsed by:
• Department of Energy Alternative Fuels Bureau • Department of Transportation & Communication, LTO, LTFRB • Department of Agriculture Philippine Coconut Authority • Department of Trade and Industry Bureau of Product Standards • USAID/US Department of Energy • Clean cities program • Fuels for life movement • Sustainable Energy Development Program

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: Inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Militant leader slain amid crackdown

LUCENA CITY—A HIGH school teacher and provincial chair of the left-wing Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) was shot dead by a lone assailant late Monday, a police report said yesterday.

Senior Insp. Ernesto Guinauli, chief of the Investigation and Intelligence Division of the city police, identified the victim as Napoleon Pornasdoro, 56, a faculty member of the Quezon National High School (QNHS) here.

Police said Pornasdoro was walking alone along Herta Road near the school in Barangay Ilayang Iyam when he was shot with a .45 cal. pistol by a still unidentified man, police said.

The killer escaped on a motorcycle driven by another man.

The victim died on the spot from several bullet wounds in different parts of the body.

Pornasdoro left behind a wife, also a teacher at the QNHS, and two children.

Leng Jucutan, chair of the human rights group Karapatan in Quezon, condemned the killing and quickly pointed to the military as responsible for it.

Jucutan noted that Pornasdoro had long been receiving death threats.

"Ka Nap attended our meeting last Sunday. We told him to always take care of himself, especially during these dangerous times," she said.

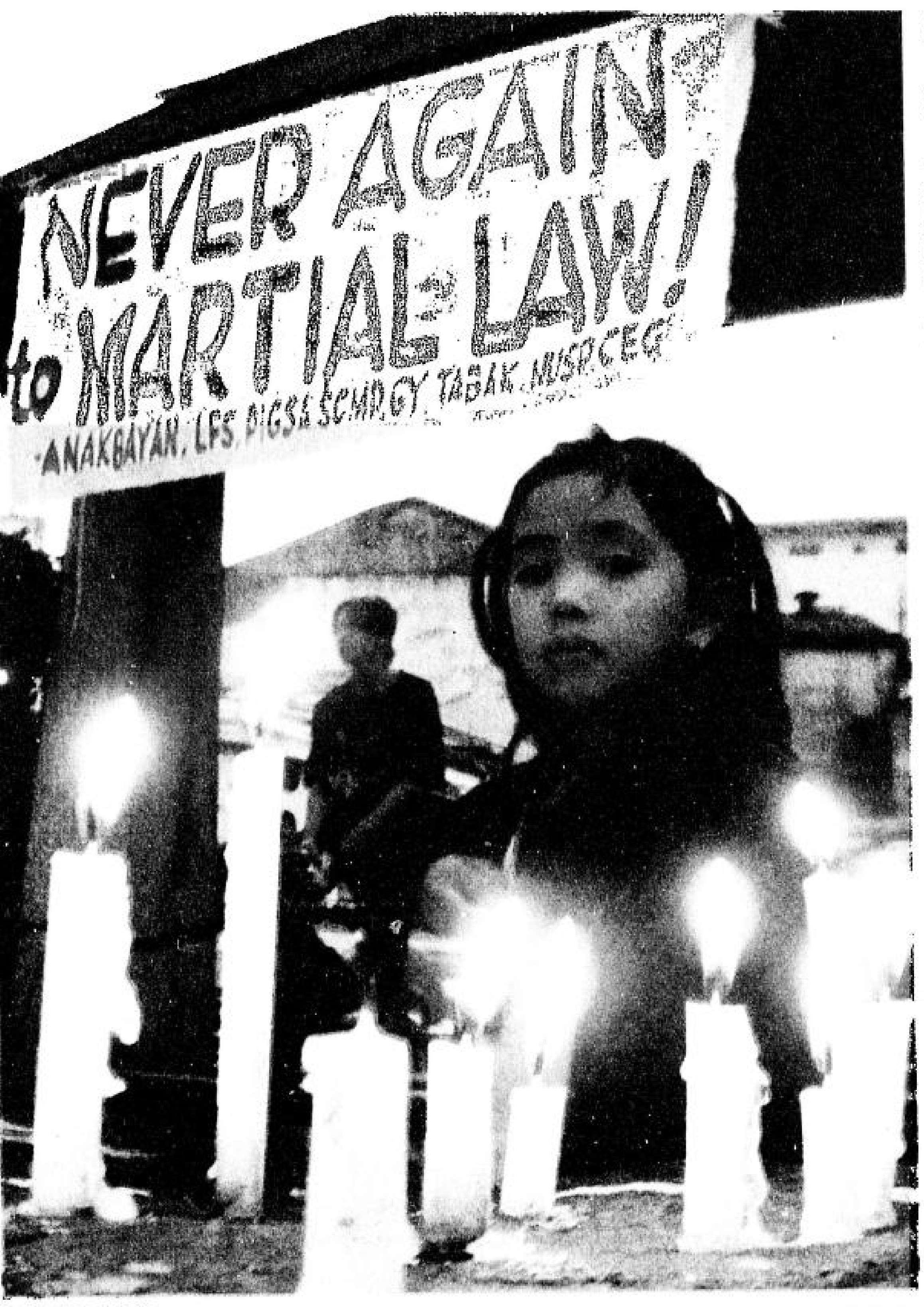
The victim's colleagues in Bayan said his murder was no different from those of local activist leaders Ronnie Almoete and Roberto de la Cruz.

"All of them were killed by fascist forces … to sow fear among legitimate dissenters," Jucutan said.

Almoete, a former Bayan Muna-Quezon chair, was killed in February last year, while De la Cruz, an Anakpawis coordinator in Lucena, was shot dead last month. Both killings have remained unsolved.

The killing of Pornasdoro came as the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo started to crackdown on leaders and members of the Left and Right.

The campaign, her officials said, was in response to a purported coup plot against Ms Arroyo. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*


NEVER AGAIN to MARTIAL LAW!
ANAKBAYAN, LFS, PIGSA, SCMDGY, TABAK, MUSCEG

DARK HOUR

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Lit candles, one of the symbols of the fight against the Marcos dictatorship, are again emerging to be the symbols of the fight against what protesters in Baguio City said was a return of repression through Proclamation No. 1017.

Anti-theft trap kills woman, 2 kids

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—A LIVE WIRE INstalled in a fence to keep away robbers ended up killing the wife and two children of a farmer in Mambusao town in Capiz on Monday afternoon.

Gilbert Launio, 22, of Sitio Napo, Barangay Manibad, Mambusao was grief-stricken when he learned that his wife Liza, 22, and children—Vincent, 4 and Daryn, 3—were found dead near the canal of their house.

His youngest son, Darwin, 1, survived and was brought to the Western Visayas Medical Center in Iloilo City.

Gilbert was not around when it happened, police said.

Police said Vincent and Daryn were playing when Vincent accidentally touched a live wire placed atop a bamboo fence. Daryn was also electrocuted when she came to the rescue of her elder brother.

Insp. Rico Pangilinan, town police chief, said Liza went out of the house, carrying her youngest son, when she heard her two children crying for help. Darwin was thrown to the grassy portion of the yard when Liza touched Vincent's body.

Liza and her two children were brought to the hospital by neighbors but were declared dead on arrival. The three suffered serious burns, doctors said.

Cebu lawyers wear black armbands to protest 1017

CEBU CITY—LAWYERS IN CEBU yesterday started publicly expressing their protest against Proclamation No. 1017 by wearing black armbands in courts at the Palace of Justice here.

Lawyer Alex Tolentino, president of the city chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), urged the people to follow their example and show outrage over President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency.

"We wanted to dramatize our grievance against the President for issuing the proclamation," Tolentino said after he launched the protest movement at noon at the local IBP office.

Tolentino said the IBP produced black armbands on which were written "No to PP 1017."

Those who want to wear the armbands could get them at the IBP office at the Capitol Compound near the Palace of Justice, he said.

Tolentino said the piece should be displayed in the right arm.

"Let us show our unity against this proclamation. We will wear this black armband until the President has lifted this proclamation," he said.

Tolentino said they chose black, not red like the other anti-Arroyo groups, to differentiate themselves from militant organizations.

Black also symbolizes "the death of our civil rights," he said.

Democrito Barcenas, former IBP-Cebu City president, said the proclamation was an assault on people's civil liberties.

Barcenas said the lawyers viewed with grave concern the raid on the Daily Tribune office, the arrest of militant leaders and other personalities, and the threat of takeover of media institutions. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Lanao rice production up

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Rice production in the province last year surpassed the national average by 25 percent, a feat described by Gov. Imelda Dimaporo as encouraging. Dimaporo said 128,405 metric tons of rice were harvested in 28,190 hectares of farms in 2005. Average production was 5.03 MT per hectare. The provincial government has been providing farmers technical briefings and hybrid seeds at subsidized prices. Corn production was also up by 8 percent last year. ***Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Action plan vs tuberculosis

SAN PABLO CITY—Health authorities here and representatives from the Department of Health, led by Dr. Francisco Ogsimer, signed a memorandum of agreement with Mayor Vicente Amante supporting a "city tuberculosis action program." Rio Uriel, provincial antituberculosis coordinator, said the lung disease was the fifth killer in this city and the seventh in Laguna. The No. 1 killer in the province is cardiovascular disease while the second is cancer, according to Uriel. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

College autonomy pushed

NAGA CITY—The House of Representatives has approved autonomy for two state colleges in the province, Rep. Luis Villafuerte said. He expressed hope that the Senate would also grant autonomy for the Camarines Sur State Agricultural College and the Bicol College of Arts and Trade. Autonomy would qualify the two schools to become fully government-sanctioned tertiary educational institutions with guaranteed yearly appropriations. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Livelihood for Legazpi women

LEGAZPI CITY—The city government strengthened its livelihood assistance program with a practical skills training program for women and day care services for parents. Under the City Social Welfare and Development Office, the skills training include food processing and preservation, chocolate candy making and baking. ***PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Festival of products

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—The town gears for the second Anilag Festival, which will showcase products of its different municipalities on March 6-12. To be featured are coconut products from San Pablo City, the *barong* of Lumban, goat cheese of Sta. Cruz, slippers of Liliw, woodcarving and papier-mache of Paete, and ducks and egg products of Victoria. ***PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bicol media summit

LEGAZPI CITY—At least 50 journalists in Bicol are expected to attend the First Bicol Media Summit today and tomorrow in this city. The meeting, sponsored by the Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJD), will examine media's role in democracy and in government reforms. Red Batario, CCJD executive director, said the summit is part of continuing efforts to involve media in government reforms with the help of the United Nations Development Program. ***PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

BU gets 210 computers

LEGAZPI CITY—The Bicol University has formed a partnership with the Global Technology Academy (GTA) of Seattle that granted the region's premier state university 210 computers. The program also involves a student exchange program. Founded in 1998 by Kjell-Jon Rye, the GTA provides its partners with access to modern technology. ***PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

ARMM needs P15M

COTABATO CITY—The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao needs an initial funding of P15 million to revitalize its Regional Economic Zone Authority (Reza). Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said the seed money would be used to invite foreign investors to consider the ARMM in their "map of destinations." Ishak Mastura, trade secretary of the ARMM, said funding would come from annual earnings of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), which remits more than P200 million to the national treasury. ***Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

NPAs claim offensives

LUCENA CITY—Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said New People's Army rebels carried out at least seven offensives against government forces during the past two days since the declaration of the state of national emergency. Rosal cited reports from the CPP Northeast Regional Committee that the rebels on Saturday launched attacks in Tagbayani, Sison, Surigao del Norte; Cabongbongan, Surigao City; Coleto, Bislig City; Kabantaw Rosario, Agusan del Sur; San Pedro, Lianga and San Isidro, Marihatag both in Surigao del Sur. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

X2 Mall Show • March 2 - 8, 2006 • Upper Ground Atrium, Bldg. B., SM Megamall

How long can you go?
4000 LAMP HOURS!
Only Php 57,000
FREE Fuji Xerox P2110 Laser Printer
InFocus X2

Whether its staging a successful presentation at work, or having the time of your life enjoying high-impact home entertainment, InFocus X2 can keep up with your busy lifestyle. And, with its 4000 lamp hours (may we add, the highest lamplife length of any projector in the market), you get more time to do the things you do best - with more to spare!

- Upgraded to 1700 ANSI Lumens
- 7th Generation DLP™ Technology
- 2000:1 contrast ratio
- 4000 Lamp Hours

• 14 ppm • 600 x 600 dpi • 15,000 duty cycle per month

*For every purchase of InFocus X2, available at the InFocus X2 RoadShow, SM Megamall Atrium • Promo Period is March 2 - 10, 2006.

InFocus® The Big Picture℠

Exclusive Distributor and Service Provider:
better solutions
AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

For more info, please call 7230601 or email inquire@ati.com.ph

All the movies you want to see on the big screen
NOW SHOWING at the Star Group of Malls

starmall
Metropolis Star Alabang

3: Final Destination 3
4: BrokeBack Mountain
5: Fearless

1: Close To You
2: Nasaan si Francis?
3: Fearless
4: The Maid

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls!

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ■ Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Pampanga history twice told

Ad man digs up local history from old photos, postcards

By Tonette Orejas
Angeles City

ALEX CASTRO HAS MADE sure that his collection of old photographs and postcards would not remain private. He shares these through the pages of his new, self-published and single-bound book with two titles—"Views from the Pampang and Other Scenes" and "Scenes from a Bordertown and Other Views."

Castro, who spent more than 25 years in the advertising communications industry (Remember that classic laundry detergent's "Labadami, Labango" jingle?), also made sure that his telling of local history would be rich with visual materials and information on Pampanga and his hometown, Mabalacat.

Art critic Cid Reyes, himself a Kapampangan from Apalit town, did not fail to see Castro's novel approach in discovering local history and writing about it.

Said Reyes during the publication's recent launch: "Possessor of one of the most varied private collections of photographs, Castro responds to the stimulus of the visual. The photograph then impels the author to summon the information to give flesh and blood to the subject."

In "Views," rare stills are windows to at least 81 essays on Manila Carnival beauties, means of transportation, games and toys, household servants, Mounts Arayat and Pinatubo, Clark Field, Rio Grande River, religious traditions, and burial and wedding practices.

Also featured are churches, local cuisine, crops, the sugar industry, Spanish and American education, priests, Aeta people, Apo Iro the faith healer, show biz talents and literary geniuses, martyrs for freedom, Benigno Aquino Sr. and even *gatas damulag* (carabao milk).

"From the sublime to the frivolous," notes Reyes of the topics.

Definitive history

The other title, focused on just about anything Mabalacat, is too comprehensive. Its 32 essays can read as the town's definitive history.

Castro forgets not to devote an essay on the "curse" of Padre Gregorio Bueno, the reason the town—so old folks say—progressed slowly despite it being a neighbor of Clark, described as a "piece of America." Love-hate is how he sums up the attitude toward the United States, what with a number of aircraft accidents and toxic wastes.

He tells all these in an engrossing manner, as he does his ads. The man's "spirit of place," says Reyes, "accounts for the personal tone of his essays—witty, breezy, harmonious, always with the thrill of 'the find,' which is every collector's high."

Castro finished the book in four years, amid ad making and working as consultant of the Holy Angel University's Center for Kapampangan Studies.

He has helped make the past of Mabalacat, as well as Pampanga's, no longer a foreign country.

"From all these small pieces of mosaic emerge a clearer, bigger picture of small town Philippines, Pampango version. Like the historian William Henry Scott's 'Cracks in the Parchment Curtain,' which beams revelatory pin points of light on Philippine prehistory, Castro's mosaic-collage of history combines a reporter's innate curiosity (the *uzi* [*usisero*] sensibility) with a painter's approach to imagery, a building up of substance through an accretion of detailed shapes and faint shadows," says Reyes.

Popularizing history

But Castro, Reyes observes, is not locked in a nostalgic trip. Castro, in his view, has taken the tradition began by newspaper columnist Ambeth Ocampo, which is "popularizing history by focusing attention on previously ignored subjects."

Castro gives out a basic invitation, one that he offers in the first essay "Freeze Frames of References":

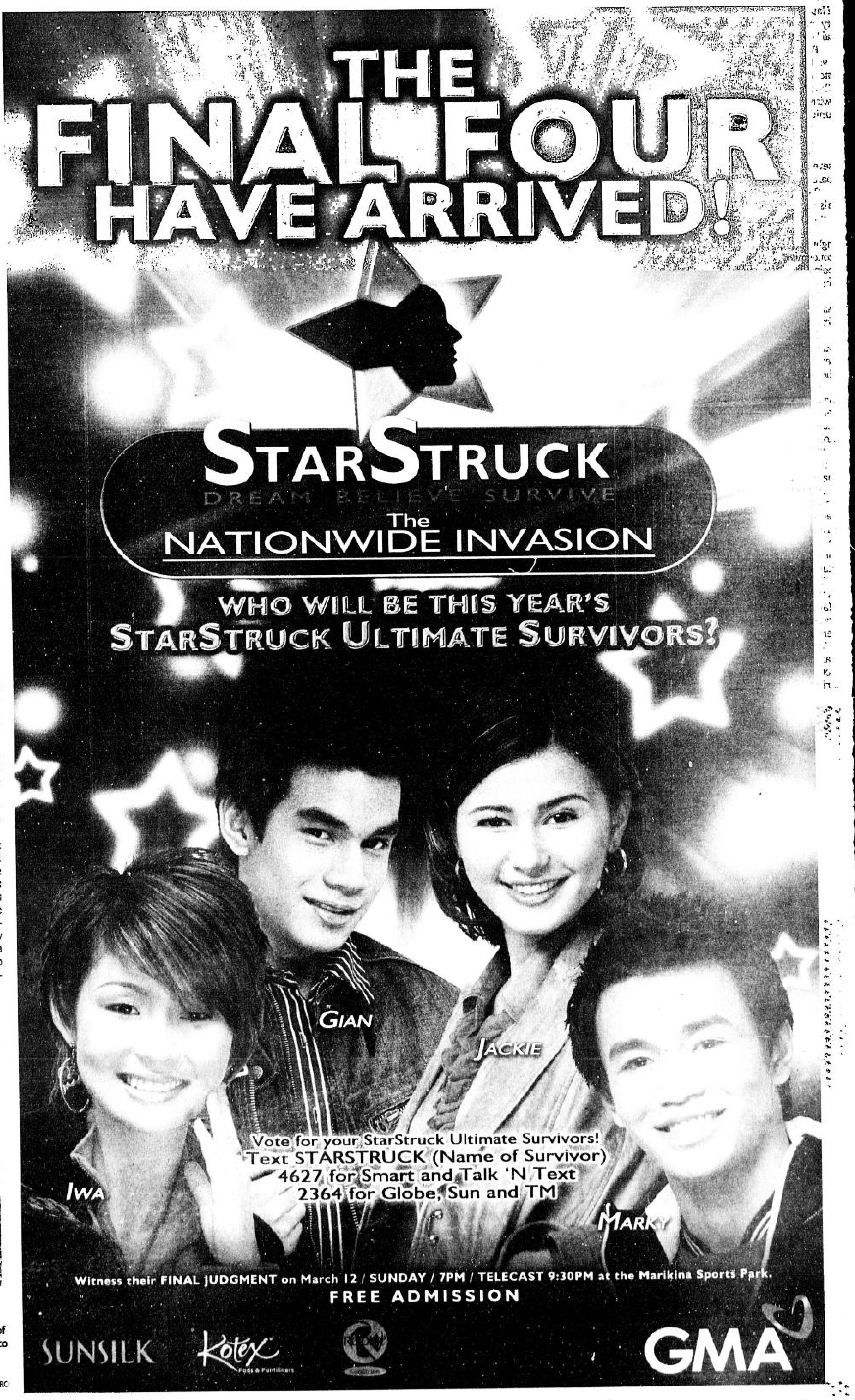
"So go ahead, open your family album, and explore further the experience of learning from pictures, or retracing the past and discovering in that faded, dog-eared photograph the key to something in your mind's eye that is vague and hazy; places, images and events that have been forgotten, ignored or taken for granted. Then perhaps, you can unravel the magic of memory."

Really not bad for someone who chose to collect old photos because these were, in his words, the only antique pieces that he could truly afford.

MABALACAT town booth at the Pampanga Carnival and Exposition 1933.

FR. GREGORIO Bueno, the last Recoleto priest of Mabalacat, was killed at the height of the Philippine Revolution. He was supposed to have cast a curse on the town before his death, saying it would never prosper.

PHOTOS FROM THE COLLECTION OF ALEX CASTRO


THE FINAL FOUR HAVE ARRIVED!
STARSTRUCK
DREAM BELIEVE SURVIVE
The NATIONWIDE INVASION
WHO WILL BE THIS YEAR'S STARSTRUCK ULTIMATE SURVIVORS?
GIAN
JACKIE
IWA
MARKY
Vote for your StarStruck Ultimate Survivors!
Text STARSTRUCK (Name of Survivor)
4627 for Smart and Talk 'N Text
2364 for Globe, Sun and TM
Witness their FINAL JUDGMENT on March 12 / SUNDAY / 7PM / TELECAST 9:30PM at the Marikina Sports Park.
FREE ADMISSION
SUNSILK
Kotex
Pads & Pantiliners
GMA

mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

SINCE
1945

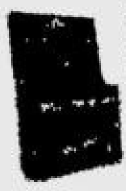
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

MARCH 1-31, 2006

Vit B complex+lysine+iron
No Adverse Reaction.

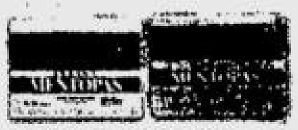
	Reg Price	Pay Only
INCREMIN WIRON SYR 60ML	107.00	96.25
INCREMIN WIRON SYR 120ML	178.25	160.50

	Reg Price	Pay Only
ORACARE MRINSE 80ML	53.00	50.25
ORACARE MRINSE 250ML	146.00	138.50



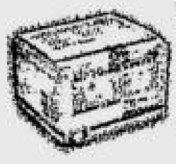
Multivitamins w/minerals
No Adverse Reaction.

	Reg Price	Pay Only
STRESSTABS 600 W/IRON 12	109.80	99.00
STRESSTABS MVIT+IRON	9.15	8.25



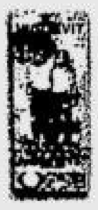
	Reg Price	Pay Only
MENTOPAS MEDIC PLSTR 10	30.75	27.75
MENTOPAS MEDIC PLSTR 2SHT	7.50	6.75

	Reg Price	Pay Only
MAGIC CR 15G	305.50	290.00
MAGIC CR 60G	865.50	820.00
MAGIC CR SOAP 90G	122.25	116.00



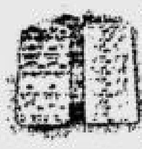
Multivitamins w/minerals
No Adverse Reaction.

	Reg Price	Pay Only
SIGLATON CAP	6.00	5.40



Multivitamins w/minerals
No Adverse Reaction.

	Reg Price	Pay Only
VIGORVIT SYR 120ML	132.50	119.25



Ascorbic acid
No Adverse Reaction.

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
POTEN CEE TAB 500MG 20	71.00	67.00
POTEN CEE TAB 500MG	3.55	3.35
POTEN CEE SF TAB 500MG	3.10	2.95

Ca lactate
No Adverse Reaction.

	Reg Price	Pay Only
CALCIUM LAC TAB 325MG	0.60	0.55
CALCIUM LAC TAB 650MG	0.95	0.90

Coconut oil
No Adverse Reaction.

	Reg Price	Pay Only
GROWRICH COCO OIL CAP 500MG	7.25	6.75

	Reg Price	Pay Only
BETADINE GRGLE 1% 60ML	71.75	68.00
BETADINE GRGLE 1% 120ML	115.75	109.75
BETADINE GRGLE 1% 240ML	209.25	198.75

	Reg Price	Pay Only
PALMO FRSH SOAP OCOOL WH 70G	9.75	9.25
PALMO FRSH SOAP CCOOL YEL 70G	9.75	9.25
PALMO NAT SOAP SCARE 70G	9.75	9.25
PALMO NAT SOAP SCARE 125G	23.75	22.50
PALMO NAT SOAP PK EXMSTRZD 70G	9.75	9.25
PALMO NAT SOAP PK EXMSTRZD 90G	17.25	16.25
PALMO NAT SOAP PK EXMSTRZD 125G	23.75	22.50
PALMO NAT SOAP GR S&HSKIN 70G	9.75	9.25
PALMO NAT SOAP GR S&HSKIN 90G	17.25	16.25
PALMO NAT SOAP GR S&HSKIN 125G	23.75	22.50
PALMO NAT SOAP PPYA WHRAD 70G	11.50	10.75
PALMO NAT SOAP PPYA WHRAD 90G	22.00	20.75
PALMO NAT SOAP PPYA WHRAD 125G	30.50	28.75

	Reg Price	Pay Only
SILKA GR PPYA WHTNG SOAP 90G	29.25	27.75
SILKA GR PPYA WHTNG SOAP 135G	36.50	34.50
SILKA PPYA WHTNG SOAP 90G	26.00	24.75
SILKA PPYA WHTNG SOAP 135G	31.75	30.00

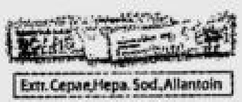
Minoxidil

	Reg Price	Pay Only
REGROE HR REGROWTH 3% M&W 60ML	555.00	499.50
REGROE HR REGROWTH 3% M&W 30ML	453.25	408.00
REGROE HR REGROWTH 5% MEN 60ML	707.75	637.00
REGROE HR REGROWTH 5% MEN 30ML	504.00	453.50

	Reg Price	Pay Only
COLGATE TB CLSSC MED FHEAD	12.75	12.00
COLGATE TB CLSSC CHILD	12.75	12.00
COLGATE TB AWAY FR HOME M	30.50	28.75
COLGATE TB PREMIER UL M	30.50	28.75
COLGATE TB PLUS TWISTER	35.25	33.25
COLGATE TB PLUS ZIGZAG	55.25	52.25
COLGATE TB WAVE	55.25	52.25
COLGATE TB POKEMON EXSOFT	30.50	28.75

	Reg Price	Pay Only
ESKINOL PIMFGHTNG FWSH 10ML	6.75	6.40
ESKINOL PIMFGHTNG FWSH 50ML	39.50	37.50
ESKINOL PIMFGHTNG FWSH 100ML	72.50	68.75

	Reg Price	Pay Only
SCOTT'S EMULSION OR 200ML	161.50	153.40

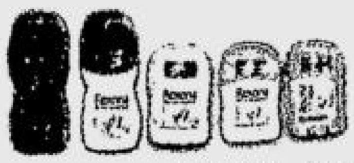


Extr. Cepae,Hepa. Sod.,Allantoin

	Reg Price	Pay Only
CONTRACTUBEX GEL 10G	394.75	375.00
CONTRACTUBEX GEL 20G	695.75	660.75

	Reg Price	Pay Only
MEDIPLAST ELASTIC BGE FLESH2X5	33.00	29.75
MEDIPLAST ELASTIC BGE FLESH3X5	44.75	40.25
MEDIPLAST ELASTIC BGE FLESH4X5	52.75	47.40
MEDIPLAST ELASTIC BGE FLESH6X5	71.75	64.50
MEDIPLAST ELASTIC BGE WHITE3X5	38.75	34.75
MEDIPLAST ELASTIC BGE WHITE4X5	47.00	42.25
MEDIPLAST ELASTIC BGE WHITE6X5	65.75	59.00

	Reg Price	Pay Only
MILCU DEOD PDR 40G	40.50	36.50
MILCU DEUD PDR 80G	55.75	50.25



	Reg Price	Pay Only
REXONA RON CWH 40ML	49.50	47.00
REXONA RON OXYGEN 40ML	49.50	47.00
REXONA RON SILK 40ML	49.50	47.00
REXONA MEN RON ICOOL 40ML	49.50	47.00
REXONA MEN RON IONIC 40ML	49.50	47.00

Omega 3
No Adverse Reaction.

	Reg Price	Pay Only
TRIANON OMEGA BLOC SGEL 1000MG	11.75	10.50

Melatonin
No Adverse Reaction.

	Reg Price	Pay Only
TRIANON MELATONIN-T CAP3MG	14.75	13.25

	Reg Price	Pay Only
MASTER A-BAC FSCRB CLSSC 50ML	42.50	40.35
MASTER A-BAC FSCRB CLSSC 10ML	6.75	6.45
MASTER A-BAC FSCRB CLSSC 100ML	71.75	68.15
MASTER A-BAC FWSH DERMA-C 50ML	42.00	39.90
MASTER A-BAC FWSH DERMA-C 100ML	71.50	67.90

mercury drug
61st
ANNIVERSARY
SINCE 1945

Right reserved to limit quantities on all items. These promo discounts shall not be used together with any other discount privileges.
For other promos, please visit our website at: www.mercurydrug.com

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0205 s. 2006

MOC APPROVAL
MAP-MJ-028/06-043

DISCOUNT COUPON • DISCOUNT COUPON • DISCOUNT COUPON • DISCOUNT COUPON • DISCOUNT COUPON • DISCOUNT COUPON • DISCOUNT COUPON • DISCOUNT COUPON • DISCOUNT COUPON • DISCOUNT COUPON

P 10.00 Off	P 18.00 Off	P 5.00 Off	P 10.00 Off	P 18.00 Off
G-UP MILK 900G	G-UP MILK 1.8 KG	G-UP MILK 400G	G-UP MILK 900G	G-UP MILK 1.8 KG

P 8.00 Off	P 10.00 Off	P 18.00 Off	P 6.00 Off	P 10.00 Off
Bear kid G-UP MILK 1 KG	POR MILK VANILLA 1 KG	POR MILK VANILLA 1.8 KG	CLUSIVOL SYRUP 60ML	CLUSIVOL SYRUP 120ML

METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

EZ2
23 16

SUERTRES
1 2 9

SIX DIGIT
1 2 4 9 3 1
(In exact order)

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min
2 3 5 15 24 28
₱29,060,379.00

BREAK'S OVER
Students go back to school after classes were suspended on Friday and Monday following Malacañang's declaration of a state of national emergency to crush an alleged coup plot. AP

Ex-Taguig mayor cleared in mart demolition case

By Nelson F. Flores

THE FOURTH DIVISION OF THE Sandiganbayan has acquitted former Taguig City Mayor Ricardo Papa Jr. of the graft charges filed against him in 2001 by a group of vendors who accused him of ordering the alleged illegal demolition of a flea market in 1997.

In a 20-page decision dated Feb. 20, the antigraft court held that Papa's action was within the authority granted his office under the Local Government Code and did not require court sanction.

"The absence of a court order for the demolition in question did not constitute evident bad faith. Contrary to the claim of private complainant, the demolition without a court order is sanctioned by law," the court said.

The charges against Papa stemmed from a complaint filed by officers of the Taguig Pinagsama Vendors Association Inc. who claimed that the mayor and municipal engineer Renato Maniquis had authorized the illegal demolition of the flea market.

The case was filed in the Office of the Ombudsman in 2001.

Papa pleaded not guilty to the charges while Maniquis never showed up, prompting the court to order his case archived for future trial.

The vendors had claimed that Papa's order to demolish the market was arbitrary because it reportedly violated an agreement that they would be relocated.

They added that their mercandise and other property worth nearly P300,000 were damaged during the demolition.

They also said that Papa's move was politically-motivated.

The Sandiganbayan, however, noted that a demolition notice had been served to the stall owners as early as Aug. 29, 1997, nearly three months before the actual demolition was carried out on Nov. 21, 1997.

In addition, the court said that the flea market had been built on the understanding that it would be temporary and that no additional stalls would be set up.

No sanitation permit, building permit or mayor 's permit was ever issued for its operation, it added.

"As an illegally constructed structure, the flea market is a proper object for the municipal mayor's demolition power which Papa was obliged to exercise," the antigraft court said.

As to allegations that politics was involved in the demolition, the Sandiganbayan pointed out that Papa assumed office as municipal mayor only on Sept. 6, 1997, more than a week after the notice of demolition had been served on the vendors.

Delinquent Malabon taxpayers told to pay up

By Nancy C. Carvajal

PAY UP OR WE WILL SUE YOU.

The Malabon City government will file charges against 30 business establishments in the city which had been delinquent in paying their taxes.

Robert Lim, the city's legal officer, said that with the computerization of local government records, they have discovered 30 companies which had not paid their taxes in the last 10 years.

"Back taxes as far back as 1995 were not collected from these companies. This is not fair to those who have paid their dues on time," he said.

Lim did not name the companies, but he said that he had already sent several notices for them to settle over P200 million in back taxes.

Should the companies fail to settle their obligations, Lim warned that they would be forced to auction off their properties in favor of the city. He added that the large pieces of property—those over 3,000 sq m—would be sold first.

Lim added that with the money, the city's dependence on other revenue sources, like the Internal Revenue Allocation, would be drastically reduced. He said that although the city government had doubled its tax collection, it is still dependent on other sources to finance some projects.

He paid for the cake, but where was the wedding?

By DJ Yap

A RETIRED AIR FORCE COLONEL WHO agreed to become the godfather at a stranger's wedding ended up losing his cellular phone and P500 in cash.

Emmanuel Hernandez, 56, told the police yesterday that a man knocked on his door at 148 Sikatuna Bliss, Phase II, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City and asked if he could be one of the godfathers at his wedding.

The man introduced himself as Romeo Santos, and said he was a neighbor who lived in Area 3 at nearby Barangay Botoc, Hernandez said.

Although he did not know the man, Hernandez said he found himself saying yes. He also told SPO2 Rafael de Peralta of the Quezon City Police District's criminal investigation division that the man had asked for P500 to buy a wedding cake.

Again, Hernandez couldn't say no and handed the money to the suspect.

Moments after the man left, Hernandez noticed that his phone, a Nokia 6610i, was missing from the table where he had put it.

"No one else but the suspect could have taken the phone," De Peralta quoted Hernandez as saying.

Later, Hernandez learned that his neighbor's name was not really Romeo Santos but Romeo Avila.

De Peralta said the retired colonel only had the incident recorded in the police blotter, but did not file any charges against the suspect.

"Hernandez said he would just charge it to experience," the police added.

METROBRIEFS

Honest gov't employees

MADAMI-DAMI PA KAMI!

TEN EMPLOYEES of the Taguig City government will be honored on Monday for returning over P47,000 in cash to its owner who left the money in a phone booth on C-5 Road, Western Bicutan yesterday morning.

Artemio Rosales, a detachment commander of the Chevron Security Agency, said he left the money, which was inside a clutch bag, inside the phone booth after he made a call at around 7:30 a.m. Personnel of the city's Public Order and Safety Office (Poso), who were in the area, later returned the bag to Rosales. The honest Poso personnel were identified as Julio Bautista, Rogelio Casas, Dante Ojales, Vivencio Esmin, Rogelio Sumulong Charito Ramirez, Elsa Ruaza, Sabina Dozal, Feliciano Sta. Ana and Enrique Casas.

Jocelyn R. Uy

New Marikina barangay?

MARIKINA'S biggest barangay, Concepcion Uno, may be split up into two if residents agree to the proposed creation of a new barangay during a plebiscite on Saturday. The city council approved an ordinance last year creating a new barangay out of a portion of Concepcion Uno. The new barangay would be called Barangay Tumana. "The size and the population of Barangay Concepcion Uno is so big. We think it would be more manageable if we create another barangay," Vice Mayor Marion Andres told the INQUIRER. Should residents approve the proposal, the number of barangays in the city would increase to 16, following the creation of Barangay Fortune last year.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

UM Law reunion

THE UNIVERSITY of Manila (UM) College of Law will hold its alumni reunion on March 4, at the UM M.V. de los Santos Memorial Auditorium in Sampaloc. All law graduates of the university are invited to the affair which will be hosted by members of Class 1956. Contact persons are: Libertad Alba Belzonce, 921-5609; Prosecutor Leah Castelo, 926-1364; Norberto Manjarez, 548-8137; Acopre Fabila, 929-0356; Alonzo Ancheta, 670-7871 or 893-4004, and Philip Lozada 927-7042

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Supply and Delivery of the following Vehicles:**

Vehicle Type	Units	Unit Cost/Budget	Approved Budget*	Cost of Bid Documents
"Four wheel vehicle preferably locally manufactured chassis and body, engine with displacement of 2.5 L direct injection four stroke diesel, GVW not more than 2320 kgs., Max. output not more than 102PS/4200 RPM, Max. Torque not more than 200Nm/2500 RPM, 5 speed M/T, Power Steering, Brakes (front/rear) ventilated discs/drum, 235/70 R 15 Alloy magwheels with center cap, Spare Tire with cable lock, Side step board, Airconditioning System dual/manual, All power doors/windows, safety features equip, security alarm system with keyless entry, digital clock, seat belts (front/rear), headrest (front/rear), AM/FM stereo cassette with CD player, Tint (one-way), Warranty (3 years). Free LTO registration, sunshield matting, EWD, seat cover.	9	P940,000.00	P8,460,000.00	P5,000.00
"Four wheel all terrain or sport utility type 4x4 Pick-up double cab vehicle with heavy duty chassis and body. Engine with displacement of 3000 cc., 3.0 L Turbo intercooled diesel, GVW not more than 2,790 kgs., power of not more than 163PS/3800 RPM Torque of not more than 343Nm/3200 RPM, 5 speed M/T, Power Steering, 15" Alloy magwheels of 245/70 R 16 6 studs, spare tire with cable lock, Brakes front ventilated disc and rear drum, ABS with EBD, Shift on the Fly (push button), All Power features (doors/windows), Standard interior/exterior features equipped, Safety features with airbag, Multi-directional Fog lamps and Security features equipped with remote keyless entry with alarm, Side step board, Seatbelt (front/rear), Headrest (front/rear), Airconditioning System with multiple vents, AM/FM stereo cassette with CD player, Tint (one-way), Warranty (3 years). Free LTO registration, sunshield matting, EWD, seat cover."	6	P1,330,000.00	P7,980,000.00	P5,000.00
"Four wheel sedan vehicle with four (4) doors and gasoline engine with a displacement of 1600 cc 4 cylinder in-line 16 V, DOHC, 1.6 L 5 speed M/T, Max. output not more than 116 HP (118 PS)/6,000 RPM, Max. Torque not more than 160 Nm (16 3 kg. m)/4,400 RPM, EFI, Brakes Front 14 ventilated Disc/rear leading-trailing drums, Tires 185/70 R 14, Alloy magwheels design, Power Steering, Airconditioning System with 4 speed blower, AM/FM stereo cassette with CD player, All power (windows/doors), Digital clock, Headrest (front/rear) ABS 4 wheel with EBD and BA, Safety and security system equipped with keyless entry, Tint (one-way), Warranty (3years). Free LTO registration, sunshield, EWD, seat cover, floor matting	1	P 748,000.00	P 748,000.00	P500.00

*Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

Expected Date of Delivery: May 2006
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	March 17, 2006 (Friday) at 9.00 a.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of March 31, 2006 (Friday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals (Prospective Bidders are encouraged to attend this activity)	March 31, 2006 (Friday) at 9:30 a.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines and **must be authorized car dealer for the last three (3) years**. Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a **non-refundable fee depending on the total amount of the approved budget of the contract of a particular item/s the prospective bidder intends to bid. Only those prospective bidders who bought the bid documents will be allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference scheduled on March 17, 2006**

The Development Bank of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702/8189511 loc. 2610

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--March 1 & 8, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V – Legazpi City
Tel. No. 480-7122

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
FOR THE SECURITY SERVICES FOR NFA REGION V

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY Region V, Legazpi City invites all interested private security agencies to register, apply for eligibility and to bid for the provisions of Security Services in the different installations of NFA Region V. The service contract to be bid shall cover the period May 17 to December 31, 2006 and shall be divided into two (2) lots as follow:

LOT	AREA COVERED	NO. OF GUARDS	BUDGET	SOURCE
1	Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes	38	P 3,066,066.60	Corporate Operating Budget
2	Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate	47	P 3,800,484.90	

Registration forms/documents will be available for issuance at RBAC Secretariat, NFA Legazpi City upon paying the amount of P1,000.00 which is nonrefundable.

Only those who have been pre-qualified by the RBAC shall be issued eligibility/bid documents and participate in the Pre-Bidding conference and the Bidding Proper upon payment of a nonrefundable bidding fee of P3,000.00 per lot.

The schedule of bidding activities to be held at the NFA Regional Office, Legazpi City are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of application forms for registration	Feb. 22 to March 8, 2006	8:00 am-5:00 pm
Deadline for submission of application for registration with required documents	March 17, 2006	5:00 pm
Issuance of Certificate of registration and Application for Eligibility to Bid	March 27-31, 2006	8:00 am-5:00 pm
Pre-bidding Conference	April 4, 2006	10:00 am
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	April 18, 2006	9:30 am
Opening of Sealed Bids	April 18, 2006	10:00 am

A Special Power of Attorney is required before the issuance of the documents for authorized representative in behalf of the bidder.

The entire bidding process shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The prospective bidder must submit a single largest contract, the value of which adjusted to current price using the wholesale price index, and completed within the preceding two (2) years and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Other inquiries may be addressed to the RBAC Secretariat, NFA Region V, Legazpi City with telephone numbers (052) 480-7015 / 480-7933 / 820-0018.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. GUEVARA
RBAC Chairman

(PDI–Feb. 22 & March 1, 2006)

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of In-Circuit and Board Test/ Electronics Diagnostic Workstation [Reference No.: PB060213 - EL0017]

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of *Php 5,830,000.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of In-Circuit and Board Test/Electronics Diagnostic Workstation**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Electronics Diagnostic Workstation*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting February 28, 2006 to April 4, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)*. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 17, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at same address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. of April 5, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 58,300.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 87,450.00
3. Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 145,750.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 5,830,000.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on April 5, 2006 / 2:00 p.m. at the *Admin Conference Rm same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 981-2235 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – March 1 & 8, 2006)

10th Anniversary

THE HEART INSTITUTE

CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

Messages

I extend my warm congratulations to the CGH Heart Institute on the occasion of its tenth anniversary celebrations. Established in line with our objectives of giving the best possible health care to the community, this center was considered ten years ago as an adventurous undertaking because of the resources that had to be placed in order to make its establishment a reality.

Today, we can proudly say that the Heart Institute has delivered a record of high success rates in transcatheter interventions, close-heart and open-heart surgeries. I therefore hope that it will continue its meritorious work.

I also thank Dr. Dy Bun Yok, Director of the Heart Institute, Dr. Alfonso Chan, Project Coordinator, our heart specialist and cardiovascular surgeons, technologist, technicians, nurses and orderlies, for a job well done.

DR. JAMES G. DY
Chairman of the Board and President, PCCA

The CGH Heart Institute celebrates its 10th Anniversary with a great sense of accomplishment. In creating the Institute some years back, other considerations had to be set aside in favor of what we believed was a truly worthy objective, which is to make us capable of responding to one of the greatest needs of the times.

I therefore commend our heart specialists, staff and everyone who have given their support and cooperation, which contributed to the success of this institution. It is something that all of us can be proud of.

MR. CHUA KEE LIN
Vice Chairman, PCCA
Chairman, Hospital Administration Committee, PCCA

Greetings!

I am honored to participate in the 10th year anniversary of the Heart Institute.

It is impossible to appreciate the significance of this celebration without reflecting on how the Heart Institute has indeed grown through the past 10 years. Today, we get to step back and be reminded of the time we ventured to put up the Heart Institute on the ingenious proposal of Dr. Dy Bun Yok. Dr. Dy deserves all our congratulations for what we have today in our Heart Institute.

It was in the interest of delivering the highest standards in the quality of cardiovascular health care to our patients that we put up the Heart Institute. Through the years, we have continued to keep up with the advances in the field of cardiovascular medicine delivering quality service to our patients.

It is but apt that we celebrate this 10th year anniversary with our 1st post-graduate course with the theme ***" Cardiovascular Medicine in the New Frontier".***

It is with this foresight that we plan to continue to deliver our services in the future... ***keeping up with the technological advances in the diagnosis and management of cardiovascular diseases in the attainment of the highest standards of cardiovascular health care for our patients, our community as well as for our country.***

TEOFILO BANGAYAN, M.D.
Medical Director, CGHMC

When The Heart Institute at the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (HI-CGH) was first inaugurated on March 06, 1996 we had taken on a clearly defined mission: (a) to prevent heart disease in the normal; (b) to diagnose cardiovascular disease early and accurately; (c) to provide up-to-date treatment; and (d) to advance the understanding of heart disease through research and training.

We therefore feel a great pride and true sense of accomplishment as we look back on the past ten years. The Institute has served an average of over 24,000 patients annually, providing cardiac diagnoses and care in various areas, namely: Heart Station and Non-Invasive Cardiology (222,424); Nuclear Cardiac Imaging (4,286); Cardiac Catheterization and Intervention Unit (6,702 total catheter-based procedures, 1,851 were interventional therapeutic procedures); Cardiovascular Surgeries (Total 1,146 - 704 cardiac operations and 442 vascular procedures and pacemaker implantations); Cardiac charity outpatients (4,992); and Cardiac charity in-patients (753).

We have trained to date 19 graduates with our 3-year Philippine Heart Association accredited fellowship program. Many have gone on and passed the Specialty Board of Adult Cardiology. This year, we have taken steps to futher equip the Institute, by adding a Neuro-Intensive Care Unit to our Critical Care Division, and installing new monitoring equipment in the newly renovated Coronary Care Unit.

Aside from our Annual Free Clinic and Lay Fora, The Heart Institute this year will also offer its First Postgraduate Course in Cardiology through the efforts of Dr. Wilson Tan de Guzman, Dr. Timothy Dy, and Dr. Claire Bautista. The post-graduate course will have the theme ***"Cardiovascular Medicine in the New Frontier"*** - an appropriate topic as we look ahead to the future.

BUN YOK O. DY, M.D.
Director, CGH Heart Institute
Associate Medical Director, CGHMC

Since its establishment in March 1996, many cases have been diagnosed and treated in the CGH Heart Institute. Quite a number of successful cardiac interventions and surgical procedures have been made by the country's leading heart specialists in this institution, which is one of the significant contributions of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center in the field of cardiology.

On the occasion of the institute's Tenth Anniversary, we express our gratitude to all those who have given their wholehearted cooperation in its activities. And we thank Dr. James G. Dy, our chairman, and the members of the Board of Directors of the Chinese General Hospital, for consistently providing us with the support to make it at par with the most equipped heart centers in the world today.

Under the guidance of Dr. Dy Bun Yok, the Director of the Heart Institute, we look forward to many more successful interventions to heal those who are suffering from cardiovascular diseases.

ALFONSO S. CHAN, MD
Coordinator, CGH Heart Institute
Associate Medical Director, CGHMC

March 1-3, 2006

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

March 1, 2006

11:00 am

Blessing of the Coronary Care Unit
Blessing of the Neuro-Intensive Care Unit/ Acute Stroke Unit

Welcome Remarks .... **Dr. Teofilo Bangayan**
Medical Director, CGHMC

Message from the Chairman .... **Dr. James G. Dy**
Chairman and President, PCCA

Message from the Heart Institute Director...... **Dr. Bun Yok O. Dy**
Director, CGH Heart Institute

Closing Remarks .... **Dr. Alfonso S. Chan**
Assoc. Medical Director, CGHMC

12:00 pm - Lunch

1st Post-Graduate Course
Cardiovascular Medicine in the New Frontier

March 2, 2006 - DAY 1

8:00 am - 9:00 am - *Registration • Opening Ceremonies*

Session I - Coronary Artery Disease

9:00 am - 10:00 am .... *Risk Factor for CAD: The Old and the New*
- Dante Morales, M.D.

10:00 am - 10:30 am .... *Acute Coronary Syndrome*
- Timothy C. Dy, M.D.

Session II - Vascular Disease

10:45 am - 11:15 am .... *PAD: Diagnosis and Treatment of Commonly Encountered Problems*
- Johnny Shia M.D.

11:15 am - 11:45 am .... *Venous Diseases: Chronic Venous Insufficiency and Venous Thromboembolism*
- Tess Abola, M.D.

Session III - Luncheon Symposium

12:00 nn - 1:00 pm .... *Lipids: FIELDITNTILLUMINATE (PFIZER)*
- Philip John Barter, M.D.

Session IV - Echocardiography

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm .... *Stress Echocardiography*
- Aristides G. Panlilio, M.D.

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm .... *3-D Echocardiography: When to Use? What to Expect?*
- Mary Ong-Go, M.D.

Session V - Electrophysiology

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm .... *Managing the Patient with Palpitations*
-Edmund Ang, M.D.

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm .... *Electrophysiology in the Philippines: Past, Present & Future.*
- Anthony King, M.D.

March 3, 2006 - DAY 2

Session VI - Congenital Heart Disease

8:30 am - 9:30 am .... *CHD in Adults: Diagnosis and Treatment*
- Bun Yok O. Dy, M.D.

Session VII - Valvular Heart Disease / Critical Care

9:45 am - 10:15 am .... *Mitral Stenosis: Prevention & Treatment Strategies*
- Allan Ruales, M.D.

10:15 am - 10:45 am .... *Valvular Regurgitation: How to Assess? How to Treat?*
- Vicky Tauro-Shia, M.D.

10:45 am - 11:15 am .... *Critical Care: New Concepts and Strategies in Cardiac Arrest*
- Luis Martin Habana, M.D.

Session VIII - Luncheon Symposium

11:45 am - 1:00 pm .... *CHF in the New Millenium*
- Romeo Divinagracia, M.D.

Session IX - Cardiovascular Surgery

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm .... *The Current Status of Off-Pump Cardiac Surgery*
- Manuel C. Chuachiaco Jr., M.D.

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm .... *Surgical Management of Acute Aortic Dissection*
- Romeo Nelson Lee, M.D.

Session X - Interventional Cardiology

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm .... *Coronary Intervention 2010: The Experts Predict the Future*
- Wilson Tan De Guzman, M.D.

Session XI - Research

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm .... *Research & Development Module*
- Felix Punzalan, M.D.

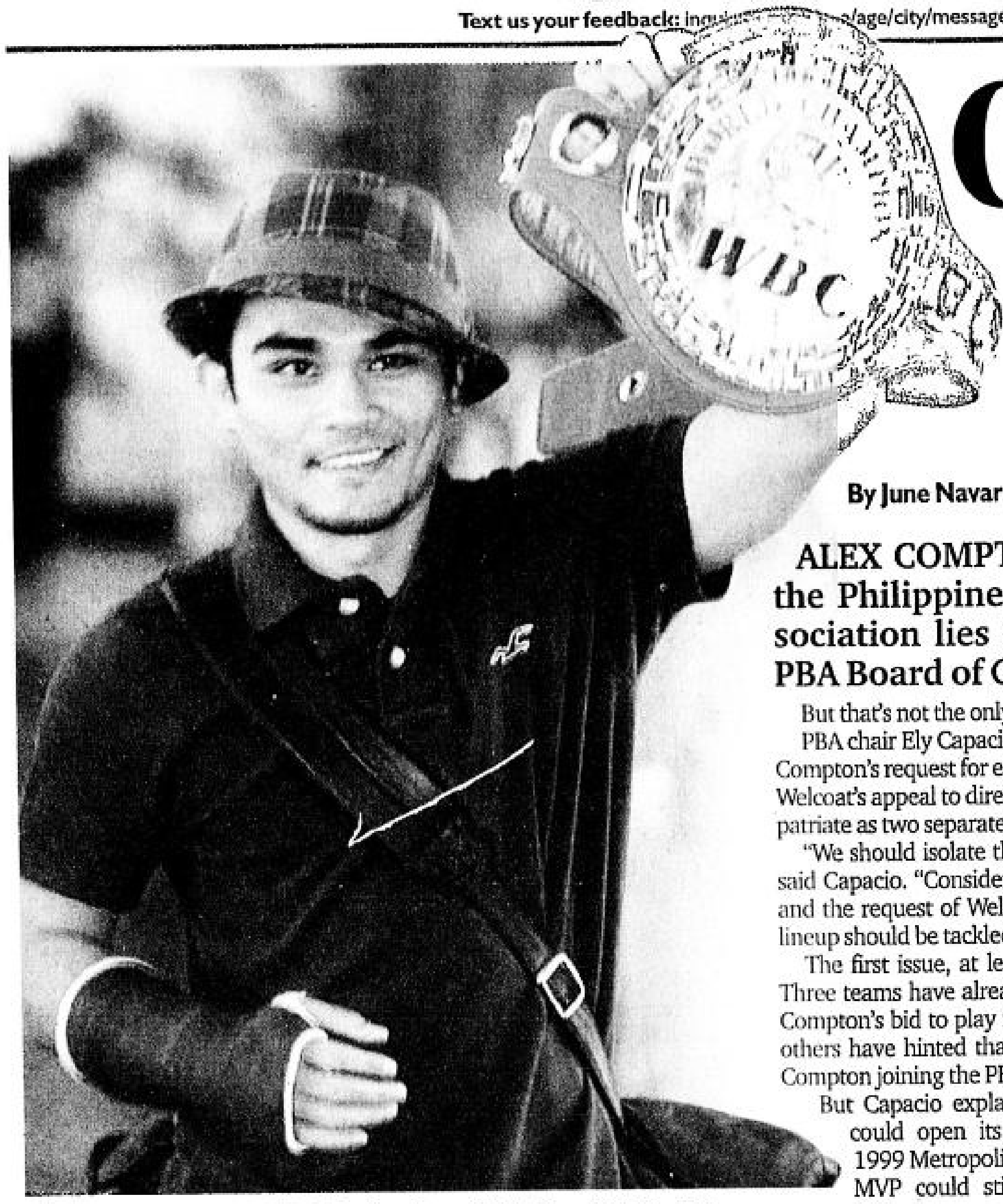
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm .... *Closing Ceremonies*

"Trust Your Heart To The Experts"

CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL
and MEDICAL CENTER
Established 1891
OWNED AND OPERATED BY PHILIPPINE-CHINESE CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION, INC.
286 Blumentritt St., Sta. Cruz, Metro Manila • Tels.7114141 connecting all departments

SPORTS
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Text us your feedback: inq[illegible]/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

If you don't want this
Stop Hair Loss Now.
Call Svenson at 892-HAIR



HOME IS THE CHAMP: World Boxing Council light flyweight king Brian Viloria raises his champion's belt on his arrival at the NAIA. His right forearm in a cast after hurting it in his latest bout in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Fil-Am fighter flew in via a Thai Airways flight bereft of the euphoria that greeted fellow boxing hero Manny Pacquiao last month. ROGER MARGALLO

Compton not sure of Welcoat berth

By June Navarro

ALEX COMPTON'S PASS TO the Philippine Basketball Association lies solely with the PBA Board of Governors.

But that's not the only issue it will decide on.

PBA chair Ely Capacio said the board will treat Compton's request for entry to the pro league and Welcoat's appeal to directly hire the American expatriate as two separate issues.

"We should isolate this matter to two things," said Capacio. "Considering Compton in the PBA and the request of Welcoat to include him in its lineup should be tackled as separate issues."

The first issue, at least, has gained headway. Three teams have already expressed support for Compton's bid to play in the pro league. Several others have hinted that they see no problem in Compton joining the PBA.

But Capacio explained that while the PBA could open its doors to Compton, the 1999 Metropolitan Basketball Association MVP could still end up with another team.

"We should leave this issue for the board to decide," added Capacio.

The Wellbest franchise, which formally took over the PBA rights of Shell on Monday, has asked the league for concessions on player acquisitions—including the possibility of directly hiring Compton—when the team makes its debut next season.

Compton, 32, has already gained the support of PBA commissioner Noli Eala as far as playing in the league is concerned. Talk 'N Text, Air21 and Alaska have also given their green light for the move.

"Here's a guy who stayed in the Philippines for so long, learned our language and helped the Filipino people any way he can," said Talk 'N Text governor Ricky Vargas.

Precedents have also strengthened Compton's PBA drive.

Americans Cisco Oliver and Billy Robinson donned the Mariwasa jersey as locals from 1975-1979. Oliver and Robinson are full-blooded Americans married to Filipinos.

Eala, however, said Oliver and Robinson were allowed to play as locals to level the playing field at a time when the league was dominated by Crispa and Toyota.

"There was no All-Filipino tournament at that time," said Eala. "They put Oliver and Robinson there to make the team competitive against Crispa and Toyota."

Compton made it into the basketball limelight in 1998 when he saw action for the Manila Metrostars in the now-defunct MBA.

Explosive PBA openers, tougher format

A NEW FORMAT, AN OVERSEAS GAME, A COUPLE of out-of-town sorties and the All-Star Week are just some of the great things that will happen in the PBA Gran Matador Philippine Cup. Commissioner Noli Eala and board chair Ely Capacio can only look forward to this "All-Filipino" conference starting on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. Two explosive matches pitting Air21 against Coca-Cola and San Miguel Beer versus Alaska will usher in the nine-team conference won by Barangay Ginebra last year. The competing teams will figure in a double round-robin with the top two teams earning automatic slots to the semis. Early in the elimination round, Talk 'N Text and Purefoods will fly to Hong Kong for the PBA's first official overseas match. It will be held March 19 at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium. The match, sponsored by PLDT Global will offer free tickets to Filipino fans in Hong Kong. Right after the Hong Kong match, the PBA starts reaching out to its provincial fans with a game already scheduled in Cabagan, Isabela. The All-Star Week is scheduled end of April.

MVP award no ticket to PBA's newest team

By Jasmine W. Payo

NOT EVEN THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER IS assured of a slot.

Jojo Tangkay, the MVP in the last PBL conference, still has to jockey for position when Welcoat Paints debuts in the pro league next season.

"Our last conference in the PBL will serve as a tryout for our players," said Welcoat team owner Raymund Yu.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala and chair Ely Capacio officially announced the acceptance of the Wellbest franchise as the league's 10th member at the PSA Forum at the Pantalan restaurant yesterday.

The pro league allowed Welcoat to elevate three players from its amateur team.

Yu and co-owner Terry Que said Welcoat has drawn a short list, which includes collegiate standouts Junjun Cabatu, Ronjay Enrile, Jay Sagad and 6-foot-7 center Jay-R Reyes.

The two officials said they might also enlist Tangkay along with fellow ex-pros Gilbert Malabanan, Marvin Ortiguerra and Eugene Tan.

"We have thought of bringing all of them, but nothing is final," said Yu of the four free agents on the Welcoat roster.

Welcoat, which tapped Leo Austria as its PBA head coach, will also have the 10th pick in the first round and the first pick in the second round of the PBA rookie draft set in August.

Moreover, Welcoat can select from the dispersal draft. The nine teams in the fold will only have 10 "protected" players, allowing Welcoat to pick from a pool of pro players.

Meanwhile, more than 40 players are expected to participate in the PBL rookie camp at 1 p.m. today at the Reyes Gym in Mandaluyong.

Free agents are also encouraged to try out. Deadline for application is at 12 noon today.

Gonzales shares third; Mariano bounces back

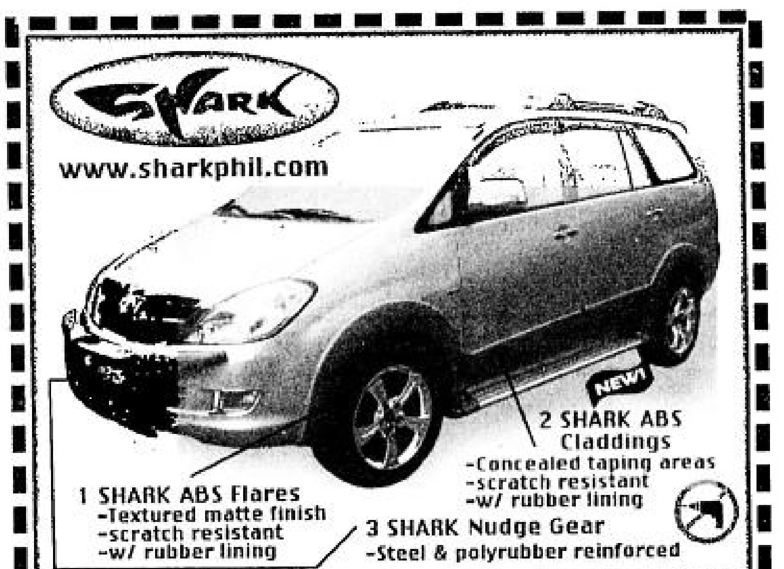
FILIPINO JAYSON GONZALES TOOK THE scalp of fellow International Master Slobodan Kovacevic of Serbia and Montenegro to share third to ninth places after four rounds of the IX Open International Malaga de Ajedrez Monday night in Malaga, Spain.

Gonzales, eyeing his third and final Grandmaster result, improved to 3.5 points, in the company of top seed GM Oleg Romanishin of Ukraine and five others.

After posting three straight wins, Romanishin drew his match with Garry Quillan of England.

Swedish GM Slavko Cicak and Slovak IM Marko Tratar share the lead with perfect scores after beating Spanish IM Ibragim Khamrakulov and German GM Arkadij Rotstein, respectively.

Filipino GM Nelson Mariano II bounced back in contention by crushing Diego Borrego Gil and climbing to 2.5 points, good for a share of 23rd to 37th places. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*


SHARK
www.sharkphil.com
NEW!
1 SHARK ABS Flares
-Textured matte finish
-scratch resistant
-w/ rubber lining
2 SHARK ABS Claddings
-Concealed taping areas
-scratch resistant
-w/ rubber lining
3 SHARK Nudge Gear
-Steel & polyrubber reinforced
With Adjustable Crossbars
4 SHARK Sports Rail
With Third Brake Lights, Sensors
Steel & Polyrubber Reinforced
5 SHARK Rear Stepgear
FREE!
SHARK Titanium Stepboard when you buy all 5 Shark Accs
OR
Buy 3 and get Foglamps Free!
Buy 2 and get Door Visor or Side Mirror Cover with LED Free!
Integrated End Caps With built-in Courtesy Lights
The only one with Double Sided Extra thick section for a more durable construction
SURESTEP The No-Noise Board
1013A EDSA Bgy Veterans Proj 7, QC Tel 410-3067/65, 372-3640
We deliver to or install at your home or office (Metro Manila Only)
OTHER INNOVA ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES!

Political crisis puts Pacquiao's RP fight in peril

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

THE COUNTRY'S CURRENT POLITICAL crisis is about to claim another sporting victim.

The recent state of emergency declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo has forced organizers of the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios bout, slated May 20, to consider transferring the fight from Manila to San Francisco, California.

HBO executive Larry Merchant said the recent developments in the Philippines might discourage HBO from sending its crew to cover the bout in the Philippines.

Interviewed over Ringtalk.com yesterday, Merchant was quoted as saying that, considering the current state of affairs in Manila, it wouldn't be advisable to hold a "significant event," such as the Pacquiao-Larios duel, in the country. He cited San Francisco as a "strong contender" to take the hosting chores from Manila.

If the fight is transferred overseas, it will be the second big sporting event that the crisis will have removed from the country. Earlier, the Philippine Open badminton tournament, which would have drawn top shuttlers from around the world, was postponed indefinitely, apparently due to the state of emergency.

Manila Golf 3rd behind Palos Verdes, Orchard

PERENNIAL TITLE CONTENDER MANILA Golf Club, and not Villamor as earlier reported, finished third in the men's Sportswriters division of the 59th Philippine Airlines Interclub on Saturday at the Palos Verdes and Apo Golf and Country Club layouts in Davao.

An oversight by the organizing committee had listed Villamor as having finished third behind champion Palos Verdes and Orchard at the end of the tournament.

Manila Golf carded a day-best 117 on Saturday and finished with a 408 tally, just 11 points behind the 419 of Palos Verdes.

The members of the MGC squad are Arsenic Laurel, Luis Carlos, Manuel Chan, Ricardo Garcia, Alfonso Reyno, Eduardo Litonjua, Kenneth Yang, Eduardo Cu-Unjieng, Joselito Yujuico, Christopher Palanca and Dennis Valdez.

GREAT DEALS OF QUALITY
AUTOWIDE
TRUCKS, PASSENGER VANS & SUVs
BIG PRICE CUT
MITSUBISHI CANTER CARGO TRUCK (Late Model)
February 17 TO March 3, 2006
Sale Starts 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
ISUZU TRACTOR HEAD
ISUZU FORWARD DUMP (Giga Type)
ISUZU 10T WING VAN TRUCK
SALE SITE
: Lot C Rizal Highway, Subic Gateway, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
: Lot 63B Innovative St., Subic Bay Industrial Park, Phase I, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel. No.: (047) 252-1221 • Fax No.: (047) 252-1223
: GULLWING MOTORS INT'L. CORP. #57 Amang Rodriguez Ave., Santolan, Pasig City Tel.: 646-7739 Fax: 668-1378
www.myautowide.com info@myautowide.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, the recognized leader in the newspaper industry with their balanced news and fearless views is committed to helping our trade partners achieve its business goals.
We are in need of
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISORS
to work for our Distributor Partner in the areas of Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales.
JOB DESCRIPTION:
✔ Will supervise a sub-distributor partner and help grow the business.
QUALIFICATIONS:
☞ College graduates from the localities;
☞ Highly motivated; Aggressive; Hardworking;
☞ Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino;
☞ Preferably Male, willing to work on a graveyard shift, fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment.
☞ Background in sales is not necessary, but a plus.
☞ Applicants must be living within either Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Nueva Ecija or Tarlac.
Send your Resume to GQY Distribution Group Inc. at GQY Distributors Inc., Dolores Homesite Extension, Dolores, San Fernando Pampanga
or call/fax 045-9614048 and look for Mr. Jess Yap.

PETRON Fuel Success.
Laban, laban sa Petron Rev-X!
X-pert sa makina, X-tra ang kita.

Mendoza tops 1st Clark Duathlon leg

UNBEATEN RYAN "BAD BOY" MENDOZA flaunted his superior strength in ruling the first leg of the 4th Clark Duathlon Grandprix series last Sunday at the Clark Expo grounds inside Clarkfield, Pampanga.

Though lacking in training due to the constant red alert status of the Armed Forces of the Philippines where he is an enlisted airman, Mendoza pulled away early and handily kept his crown by staging a solo finish in 1:25:50.

Fellow national team member Jeffrey Valdes settled for second place anew in 1:29.37 while national pool member Augusto Benedicto placed third in 1:31.23 of the 5K run-30K bike-5K run event.

The 29-year-old Mendoza, backed by Mizuno, took the lead from Valdes in the very first loop of the first 5K run leg and then pulled away in the bike leg to stretch his winning streak to three years in local duathlons.

"I struggled a bit because of lack of training as we were recalled to the service because of the red alert," said Mendoza in Filipino. "My opponents were better prepared but I still managed."

Mendoza will be leaving for Thailand this month to compete in the Mekong River sports festival as his final tune-up for the Asian Duathlon Championship set April 9 in Clark.

The women's side had national triathlete Mimi Lucas, a high school junior at Woodrose, Alabang, topping the elite division, clocking 1:55.03. She bested Sen. Pia Cayetano (2:06.03).

Youngster and 2005 National Age Group Triathlon Series champion Kim Mangrobang topped the 18 and under division in 2:05.03, finishing second overall to Lucas.

The event, organized by the Clark Multi-sports Group and sanctioned by the Traithlon Association of the Philippines, lured more than 70 bets from NCR, Pampanga and nearby provinces.

NAT'L INTER-COLLEGIATE

West Negros five zaps Altas

LEGAZPI CITY—WEST NEGROS COLLEGE stunned defending champion University of Perpetual Help, 62-58, yesterday to serve notice of its title aspirations in the 60th National Inter-Collegiate Basketball Championships at the Ibalon Centrum Recreation Center here.

Four mainstays, led by Stanley Tizon, scored in double figures for the Mustangs, the Region 6 representatives to the championship organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Tizon finished with 14 points, followed by Eli Olarte with 13, Vengie Vergara with 11 and Sonny Abaring with 10.

The Altas debuted with a 115-54 rout of Aquinas of Bicol last Monday.

Equally impressive was Angeles University Foundation, which surprised National Capital Region topnotcher National University, 78-73.

Anthony Mallari, Chris Ingal and Allan Hicban combined for 41 points for the Great Danes, who relied on a strong start to repulse the Bulldogs.

In the other Group A match, Calayan Education Foundation downed Aquinas, 87-75.

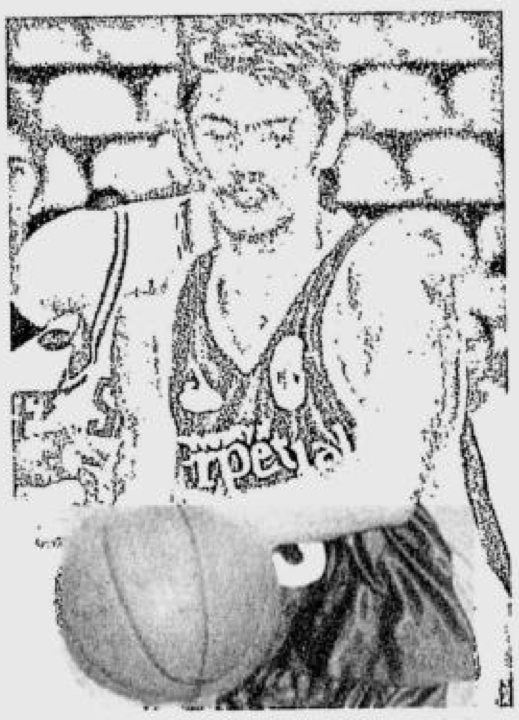
Over at the Albay Astrodome, University of Luzon subdued Divine Word College, 99-94, and University of San Carlos nipped San Pedro College of Business and Arts, 77-63.

The scores

FIRST GAME

AUF 78—Mallari 17, Ingal 14 Hicban 10, Bumanlag 10, Go 7, Steen 6, Guevara 5, David 5, Sison 2, Banawa 0.

NU 73—Malagueño 16, Fernandez 14, Malcontento 13, Catamora 9, Assoro 7, Salbado 5, Flor 2, Tungkol 2, Lingao 2, Dela Cruz 1.



A BALANCED attack by the Mustangs left the Altas stunned. PDI PHOTO

Halftime: 40-25

SECOND GAME

WNC 62—Tizon 14, Olarte 13, Vergara 11, Abaring 10, Baclao 9, Espiritu 5, Dapar 0, Sauante 0.

PERPETUAL 58—Misa 15, Bauzon 11, Balboa 9, Joe 8, Kong 5, Lee 3, Apor 3, Mendoza 3, Racho 2, Liaz 0, Perturbos 0.

Halftime: 25-18

Many more will benefit if Alex gets into PBA

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

DESPITE THE PROHIBITIVE ticket prices and the prevailing political situation, thousands trooped to the Araneta Coliseum last Friday and Saturday to watch American professional wrestling in WWE Raw Live.

Perhaps my memory fails me, but I don't recall seeing the Big Dome that jampacked. Even tickets to the gallery section were sold out. "Packed to the rafters"—this is an accurate description. Fans didn't mind shelling out hundreds, if not thousands of pesos, just to see the beefy, hulking warriors and their sexy female counterparts in action.

Not surprisingly, the audience was composed mainly of children, teenagers, young adults and parents who accompanied their kids. Franz and Odette Pumaren were with their three boys, and I saw Sen. Bong Revilla on the corridor with his son.

It must have been quite an experience for them, just as it was for me. I got both an eyeful and an earful. More than anything else, it was a spectacle—complete with fireworks—to stimulate the senses.

The show was pure entertainment, and the fans couldn't have enough of it.

* * *

Because of WWE's resounding success, we can expect Smackdown, another wrestling group, to invade the country this October.

Solar Sports' Peter Chanliong said wrestler Dave Batista, who is of Filipino-Greek origin, belongs to this group.

Batista's real name is Dave Michael Bautista.

* * *

I wonder if that was a file video of equestrienne Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski that was shown on national television the other night. She looked like she had lost considerable weight, considering that she spends so much time in the kitchen preparing food for her father's guests.

At least that's what the television report said. The boob tube even showed her favorite menu, which was so yummy it made my mouth water.

Could it be true that her father, POC president Peping Cojuangco, had been involved in the recent destabilization which was purportedly hatched at his famous Dasmariñas Village residence, where POC meetings were held and where the plan to overthrow the BAP was also hatched?

* * *

Beneficiaries of the charitable Alex Compton must be fervently praying that he will be finally allowed to play for Welcoat in the PBA.

In all his years as a cager, the kind-hearted Alex has always donated a significant portion of his monthly salary to the needy.

With a bigger salary in the PBA, more people will benefit from it.

I believe Alex's case should be considered special. Many months ago, player agent Danny Espiritu conducted a survey among PBA players to find out if they were agreeable to having Alex included in their ranks. The result was positive. There were a lot more players who said "yes" than "no."

* * *

HOOPVINE: World Boxing Council light flyweight champ Brian Viloria, who recently defended his title against Mexico's Jose Antonio Aguirre, arrived in Manila yesterday sans fanfare. Brian will be here for one week... IBF champion Vic Darchinyan, an Australian citizen of Armenian descent, is defending his title against Filipino challenger Diosdado Gabi on March 3 at the Chumash Casino Resort in Sta. Ynez, California. The fight will be aired at 12:30 p.m. on Solar Sports... Jazz artist and PBA fan Richard Merk asked me if I knew anything about Chinese horoscope. "Do you know if the year of the dog brings bad luck?" he wanted to know, pointing out that St. Bernard, the site of the landslide in Leyte, is a dog. "A rescue dog," he specified... Astute observation, but where's the dog in the PhilSports Arena stampede and the coup attempts? None but these both occurred in the year of the mutt... Now that so many former Ateneo Blue Eagles have joined Red Bull, PBA rooter Romuel Alarcon suggests that the Barakos change their product to Blue Bulls... Careful now.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, the recognized leader in the newspaper industry with their
balanced news and fearless views
is committed to helping our trade partners achieve its business goals.

We are in need of

RETAILERS

Interested in selling Inquirer newspaper in the following areas in Central Luzon: Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales.

Send your *Resumé* to:
GQY Distribution Group Inc.
(exclusive distributor of Inquirer Newspaper)
Dolores Homesite Extension
(near Jun-Jun's Bibingka Rest., McArthur Highway)
City of San Fernando Pampanga
or call/fax (045) 961-4048
please look for ***Mr. Jess Yap***

NZ rider Robinson heads Masters of Asia moto cast

FRESH OFF HIS VICTORY OVER top local rider Glenn Aguilar, New Zealand's James Robinson will set out as favorite in the 2006 Motocross Masters of Asia slated March 18-19 in Puerto Princesa City.

The Malaysia-based Robinson beat Aguilar, the former Asian champion, in the Pro Open class of the 2006 Camel International Supercross series in Talisay City, Negros Occidental, last week.

The country's nine-time Rider of the Year is unfazed by the setback, though.

"While there is pressure since we are hard-pressed to win on home turf, the fact that we will be having the crowd behind us negates all that," said Aguilar. "We are grateful to Camel for the two tune-up events in Talisay and Iloilo."

Several national champions are seeing action in what is actually the second leg of the FIM UAM Asia Pacific Motocross Championship.

The other men to watch are Japan's Kazuki Sugiyama, Australia's Jye Harvey, Thailand's Arnon Theplib and Indonesia's Aep Dadang Supriatna and Denny Orlando.

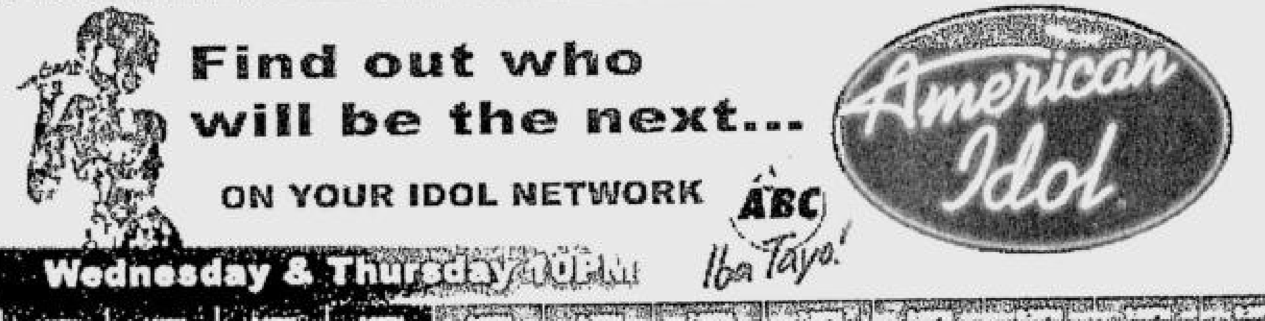
The Motocross Masters is expected to draw about 70,000 spectators to the sprawling moto track near the Puerto Princesa City Hall, according to the organizing NAMSSA.

The races are backed by the Puerto Princesa City government, led by Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn, the Philippine Sports Commission, motorcyclephilippines.com and Inside Racing magazine.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Wednesday, March 1, 2006



Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:
1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10:30PM	[illegible]	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins		TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Palad	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		S.O.C.O			Insider
AXN						When Animals Attack		Lost		Numb3rs (Season I)		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records				
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinemax		Come September			It Could Happen To You (4:45 PM)				The Addams Family (6:25 PM)			Delusion			Dinocroc			Timecop: The Berlin Decision	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		2004 World Summit of Pool NY, NY USA		Mosconi Cup '02		Winter X Games Classic CO USA	Winter X Games Classic CO USA	Motorsport Asia	Pool Snooker World Pool League '04 Poland		Sportscenter Asia	Pool Snooker World Pool Masters '04 Holland			Pool Snooker Premier Snooker League '04 England				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Average Joe		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars		Beauty & The Geek		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Marriage Works in Christ	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Faith In Motion	Adventures In Odyssey	EWTN Original Productions	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Defending Life	EWTN Gallery	In The Heart Of The Church	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Catholic Social Teaching	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Carpenter's Shop	Our Father's Plan	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	La Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Family Law III					Who's The Boss? II	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy					Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Strong Medicine
HBO				Motives			Virginia's Run			Footloose (7:15 PM)				Mad Dog And Glory			Executive Decision		
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		Japan Video Topics		Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Heat		Velocity		X Men	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Primetime Glick	Chappelle Show
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Life & Style		Fine Living Special		Intimate Portrait	
MTV Philippines	Jams	Whatever Things	MTV Hits		The 70's House	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL		Viva La Bam	Laguna Beach	Get Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Hunter Hunted		Interpol Investigates		Science Times		Top 5 - Mysterious Universe		Wow!		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Hunter Hunted		Interpol Investigates	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Talk Ko 'To		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Krusada Kontra Krimen		Bantay OCW With Susan K	Cue Masters
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Agimat Ni Lolo				Mag-asawa				Masarap Masakit ang Umibig				Batweg				Radio Active Ogie Alcasid
QTV	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zentrix	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Global Window				Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Money Talk	
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports	All England 2006 SF								NBA Jam	Sagupaan	Boxing: Mosley vs. Vargas	Sportsdesk					Sportsdesk	PBO Day1 Recap	NBA Jam
Sports Plus						Gilette World Cup Preview 1	FIFA Preview Series 2	World Game		NBA Game Minnesota @ Chicago					NBA Game New Orleans @ Seattle				
Star Movies	The Gingerbread Man (2:20 PM)			Direct Action (4:15 PM)				In Enemy Hands (5:50 PM)			Safe Men			The Passion Recut				William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		American Idol 2006		Star News Asia	Friends (Series 10)	American Idol 2006		Medical Investigation		Smallville		Friends (Series 10)	American Idol 2006
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Spirits	Wazzup Wazzup	The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI (8:20 PM)	Life As We Know It (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

MARTINA Hingis prepares to return to Mashona Washington. AP

Hingis breezes through; Agassi, Hewitt triumph

DOHA, QATAR—FORMER CHAMPION MARtina Hingis made a successful return to Doha in breezing past Mashona Washington, 6-1, 6-2, in 46 minutes at the Qatar Open on Monday.

Hingis, two months into her comeback following a three-year retirement, was playing her first match in Doha since she won the inaugural final in 2001.

She was broken in the first game by Washington, then won the next eight.

"I think I played very well, except the first game," she said. "I didn't miss much after being broken. During the first set, I knew I could do anything I wanted. I played all of my shots with confidence."

In the second round she'll face third-seeded Francesca Schiavone of Italy for a place in the quarterfinals.

In Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Andre Agassi produced vintage form to dispatch Britain's Greg Rusedski, 7-6 (4), 6-0, in the opening round of the Dubai Open.

The 35-year-old American, playing only his second tournament of the season and third after his loss to Roger Federer in the final of the US Open last September, showed no obvious discomfort from the lower back strain which sidelined him for the last two weeks.

"It's good to be back on the court healthy and excited," said Agassi, who was also constrained by an ankle injury in the latter part of 2005. "I am still not as comfortable and that will take a couple of matches, but what was important was that I was getting into good positions which means I am moving well."

In Las Vegas, top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt rallied to beat Florian Mayer, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, Monday night in the first round of the Tennis Channel Open.

Mayer was leading, 2-1, when the match was delayed for over an hour because of rain.

Also Monday, Jonas Bjorkman defeated sixth-seeded Gael Monfils, 7-6 (8), 6-3, in a rough afternoon for seeded players.

Three of the eight seeded men were no longer in action after the first session. *AP*

Pistons roll over Cavs again

CLEVELAND—RASHEED WALLACE SCORED 24 points and Richard Hamilton added 22 to lead Detroit to an 84-72 victory over Cleveland on Monday night, the Pistons' sixth straight victory and second in two days against the Cavaliers.

Wallace made four 3-pointers, a night after he split open Cavs center Zydrunas Ilgauskas' head with an elbow during Detroit's 90-78 home win. Wallace was fined $5,000 by the NBA on Monday for the flagrant foul.

LeBron James led Cleveland with 26 points and Ilgauskas, playing with five stitches in his head, had 18 points. The Cavaliers have lost four straight.

Chauncey Billups added 15 points and 12 assists for Detroit.

In other games, Atlanta surprised New Jersey, 104-102; Miami tripped Toronto, 101-94; Memphis clubbed Washington, 108-98; Phoenix crushed Houston, 111-94; San Antonio demolished New York, 121-93; Dallas whipped Philadelphia, 104-92; Milwaukee humbled Denver, 110-89; Sacramento trashed Portland, 115-91; Utah defeated Golden State, 117-108; and the LA Clippers beat Charlotte, 95-87.

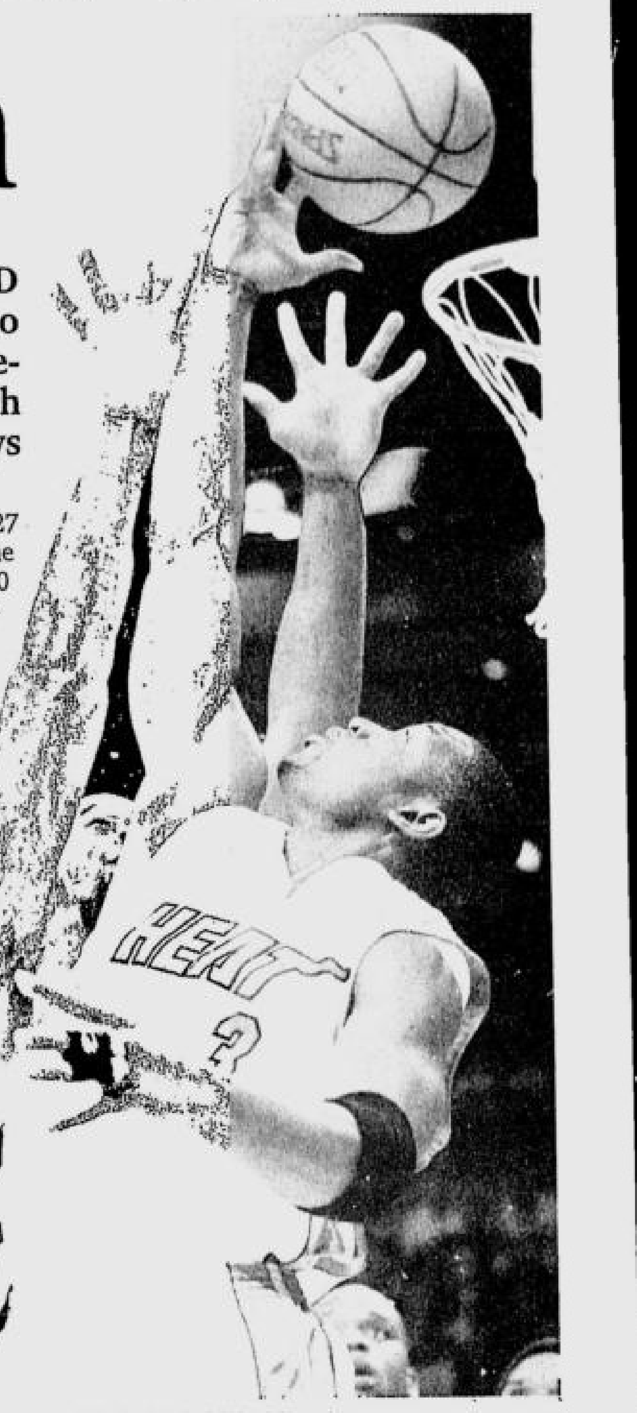
In Miami, Dwyane Wade was 15-for-19 from the field and scored 32 points, helping the Heat extend their season-best winning streak to six games.

Shaquille O'Neal added 27 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, who shot a season-high 60 percent. They were only 10-for-25 from the line, including 5-for-15 by O'Neal.

Mike James scored 26 points for Toronto.

The Raptors lost their fourth game in a row, and the latest defeat came with Toronto on the verge of hiring Bryan Colangelo as president and general manager. He resigned Monday as president and general manager of the Phoenix Suns, and a news conference is scheduled Tuesday in Toronto to announce his hiring.

NBA on TV: SOLAR SPORTS—Orlando vs LA Lakers (11:30 a.m.); SPORTS PLUS—Minnesota vs Chicago (9:30 a.m. live, 7 p.m. replay), New Orleans vs Seattle (9:30 p.m. delayed telecast)



DWYANE Wade (right) lifts Miami anew. REUTERS

Loss of Love hurts, highlights his failures

CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA—NO one was sorry to see Tiger Woods leave the Match Play Championship, least of all Davis Love III.

No one understands better than Love that any number of players can be dressed up like Tiger Woods in the tournament, where anyone in any round can get a hot hand.

"I'm not wishing Tiger was here," Love said on the eve of his 36-hole championship match against Geoff Ogilvy at the weekend. "I'd love to play him again, though."

Love might have wished he were around on Sunday at La Costa Resort to ease the sting of losing.

Getting beat by Woods would have been understandable, because Love has a history of that. Woods was 20 when he won his first US PGA Tour event by beating Love in a playoff in Las Vegas with a par. He beat him in the Grand Slam of Golf when it was match play, and twice trounced him in the Match Play Championship.

Losing to Ogilvy only exacerbated Love's failures.

It brought into focus even more that Love, a world-class player with 18 victories and a major, has gone without a victory in six of his last eight seasons on the US PGA Tour.

There is no such thing as an upset in the Match Play Championship. But there is such a thing as perception, and the final was a match everyone expected Love to win.

This was Love's best chance to capture a World Golf Championship, and a victory might have caused people to change the way they look at an otherwise sterling record. Along with his 18 victories and that rainbow-colored PGA Championship at Winged Foot, Love twice has won The Players Championship and only once in the last 16 years has failed to make the US Tour Championship.

LOVE AP

It doesn't matter that when Australians talk about their best talent, conversations usually don't get very far without Ogilvy's name being mentioned. He showed his resolve all week at La Costa, winning four consecutive matches in extra holes and building momentum by whipping Tom Lehman in the semifinals.

"It's always better to not run up against the world No. 1," Love said, "but Geoff Ogilvy is playing great."

No doubt. But this was as much about Love's shortcomings as anything Ogilvy did.

Love hasn't won since the 2003 International in Colorado, and his loss on Sunday at La Costa invited more skepticism about his game.

"I did everything good except for five or six iron shots, really," Love said.

Even with back and neck problems that have made it difficult for Love to find a flow in his playing schedule, his picturesque swing and power are a lethal combination. But for whatever reason, pictures of Love posing with the trophy are about as rare as pictures of Woods relaxing on his yacht. *AP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's most widely read and circulated paper in the country is in need of

NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTION OFFICERS

to oversee the sales and distribution operations of distributor partners across the country

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of top universities
- Highly motivated; aggressive and hardworking;
- Results oriented
- Possesses excellent oral and written communication skills both English and Filipino;
- Willing to be relocated
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to
HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
e-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

Who's footing Palaro bill?

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT ALREADY HAS A DEFINITE DATE AND venue, but nobody knows where the money for this year's Palarong Pambansa would come from.

The Philippine Sports Commission, which unloaded its Palaro responsibilities to the Department of Education two years ago, yesterday said it isn't aware as to who will foot the bill estimated at P20 million for the Games slated May 7 to 13 in Naga City.

"We don't know who is spending for it because as far as I know we are just providing technical support," said PSC executive director Guillermo Iroy.

The PSC is also cash-strapped after receiving only P28 million from the General Appropriations Act. Congress had proposed a P250-million budget for the PSC but the Senate remained firm on retaining the original budget.

The DepEd is equally clueless on the sources of funds for the Palaro.

DepEd national coordinator Len Toledo said that it was the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation which spent for last year's Palaro in Iloilo City through the PSC.

"By all indications, the same arrangement will be made this year," Toledo said.

Toledo said the DepEd management committee on Feb. 22 agreed to bring back the Palaro to Naga City, the 2003 host.

"Naga City is best suited [to host the Palaro] because there are only minor works to be done in the venues," said Toledo.

SPORTSWATCH

Admirals keep hopes alive

PHILIPPINE MARITIME INSTITUTE DUMPED NAtional College of Business and Arts, 113-87, yesterday to keep their waning semifinals bid alive in the 13th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) men's basketball tournament at the Arellano Legarda Gym. Larry Rodriguez and Ervin Castillo combined for 42 points as the Admirals finished the elimination round with a 7-4 win-loss record, still behind the fourth-running La Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots (7-3), who tasted a 90-89 loss from PATTS School of Aeronautics last Friday. The Admirals' chances of making it to the Final Four will depend on the outcome of the Patriots' coming showdown with the St. Francis Doves. A win by the Patriots will give them the last semis berth and oust the Admirals. It will also put the Doves (9-1) out of their share of the lead with the Arellano University Flaming Arrows.

Makati cockfest set today

THE MAKATI COLISEUM HOSTS A SUPER 4-cock derby today with P300,000 in guaranteed prizes. The event is backed by B-Meg Derby Ace. Meanwhile, the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) will conduct screening of cockerels from March 1 to 31, for the PCAP stag derby series in September. Interested breeders who prefer farm-to-farm screening and wing-banding may call 09154496889 or 8963545.

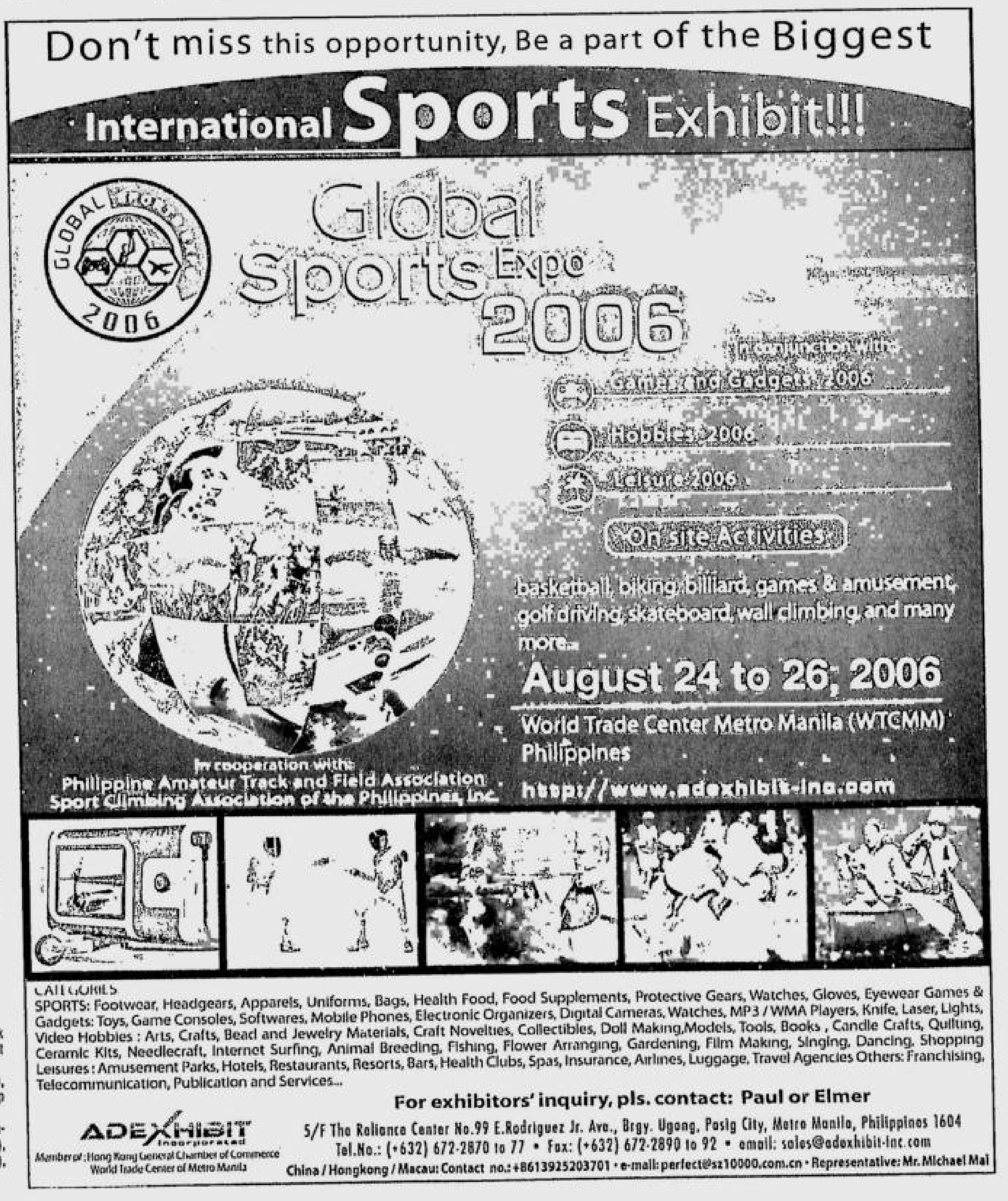
Topacio leads GCAP derby

COCKER OF THE YEAR FRONTRUNNER JUN Topacio headlines the 70 matches today in the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby at San Juan Coliseum. Patrick Antonio is expected to give Topacio a solid chase. Exclusive sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Meanwhile, the Super Big Event 5-cock derby is also slated at SJC on March 8 with lawmakers Butch Pichay, Nonoy Libanan and Jing Paras as co-hosts. Call 7255369.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Gone With The Wind (7), Kate Alex (9), Beat D'Ace (1), Wynn's Connection/D'Venetian (2)
Race 2—(Penta/Tri)—Ocean Cookie (7), Terminator (3), Going Strike (8), Wind And Roses (5), My Lucky Date (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Sir Olizon (1), Queen of Gaia (8), Yankee Clipper (6), Special Lad (4)
Race 4—(Penta/Tri)—[illegible] (13) Ingay Ingay (4), Road Runner (10), En Carta (2), Rock Attack Attack (3)
Race 5—(Quartet/Tri)—Angel of Light (3), [illegible] Sharon's Cookie (2) [illegible] Bull rider (6)
Race—(Super 6/Tri)—Dalidali (2), Sandok (6), Cash Me Call (9), Music Quest (3), Hukom (11), Smart Harry (8)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Amazing Firenze (4), Uncle Buck (7), Please Don't Stop (6), War Bird (5)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Time Enchanted (2), Brittney's Magic (11), She Boom (12), Hezabellagio (3), Magical Surf (6), Court General (8)



Don't miss this opportunity, Be a part of the Biggest
International Sports Exhibit!!!

Global Sports Expo 2006

In conjunction with:
Games and Gadgets 2006
Hobbies 2006
Leisure 2006

On site Activities
basketball, biking, billiard, games & amusement, golf driving, skateboard, wall climbing and many more...

August 24 to 26, 2006
World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM)
Philippines
http://www.adexhibit-inc.com

In cooperation with:
Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association
Sport Climbing Association of the Philippines, Inc.

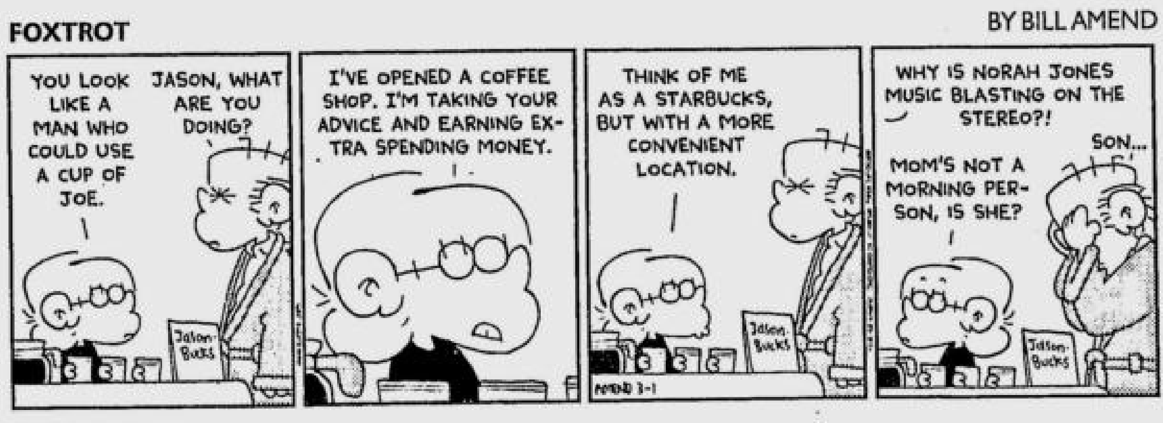
CATEGORIES
SPORTS: Footwear, Headgears, Apparels, Uniforms, Bags, Health Food, Food Supplements, Protective Gears, Watches, Gloves, Eyewear Games & Gadgets: Toys, Game Consoles, Softwares, Mobile Phones, Electronic Organizers, Digital Cameras, Watches, MP3 / WMA Players, Knife, Laser, Lights, Video Hobbies : Arts, Crafts, Bead and Jewelry Materials, Craft Novelties, Collectibles, Doll Making,Models, Tools, Books , Candle Crafts, Quilting, Ceramic Kits, Needlecraft, Internet Surfing, Animal Breeding, Fishing, Flower Arranging, Gardening, Film Making, Singing, Dancing, Shopping Leisures : Amusement Parks, Hotels, Restaurants, Resorts, Bars, Health Clubs, Spas, Insurance, Airlines, Luggage, Travel Agencies Others: Franchising, Telecommunication, Publication and Services...

For exhibitors' inquiry, pls. contact: Paul or Elmer

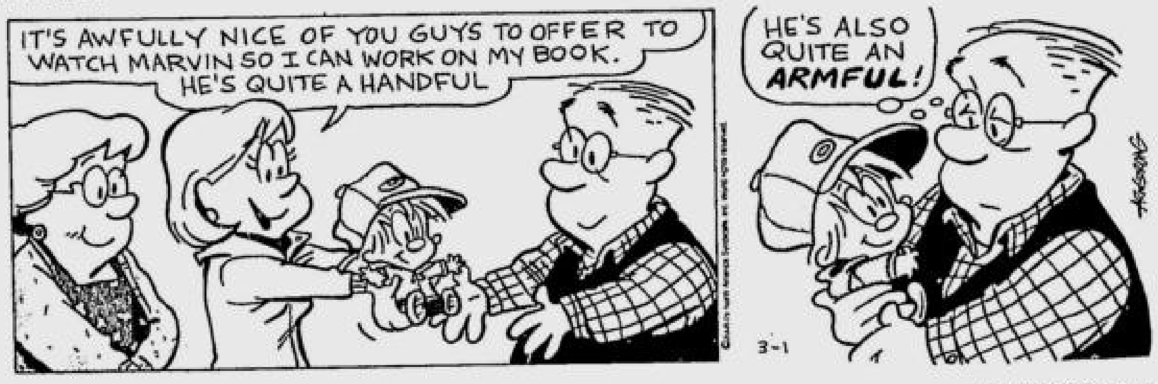
ADEXHIBIT Incorporated
Member of : Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
World Trade Center of Metro Manila

5/F The Reliance Center No.99 E.Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines 1604
Tel.No.: (+632) 672-2870 to 77 • Fax: (+632) 672-2890 to 92 • email: sales@adexhibit-inc.com
China / Hongkong / Macau: Contact no.:+8613925203701 • e-mail: perfect@sz10000.com.cn • Representative: Mr. Michael Mai

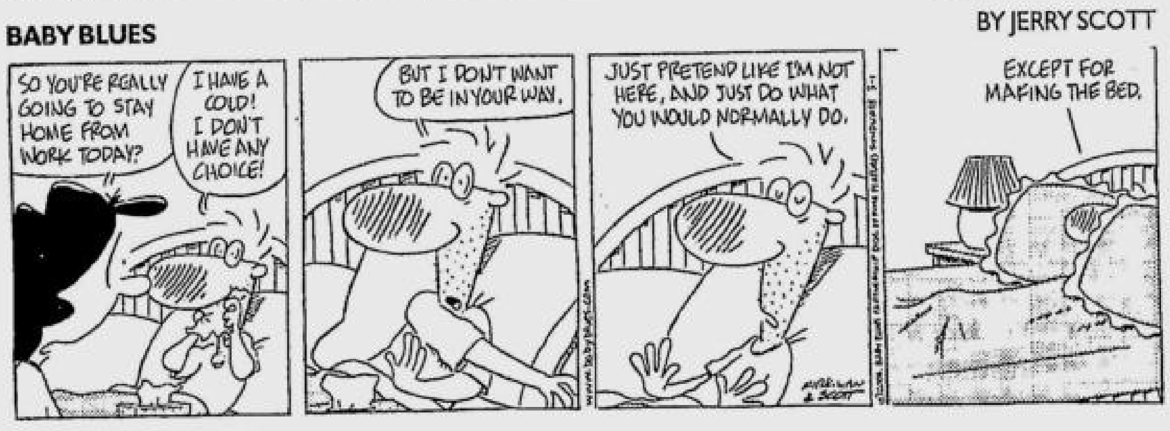
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


YOU LOOK LIKE A MAN WHO COULD USE A CUP OF JOE.
JASON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'VE OPENED A COFFEE SHOP. I'M TAKING YOUR ADVICE AND EARNING EXTRA SPENDING MONEY.
THINK OF ME AS A STARBUCKS, BUT WITH A MORE CONVENIENT LOCATION.
WHY IS NORAH JONES MUSIC BLASTING ON THE STEREO?!
MOM'S NOT A MORNING PERSON, IS SHE?
SON...
Jason-Bucks
AMEND 3-1

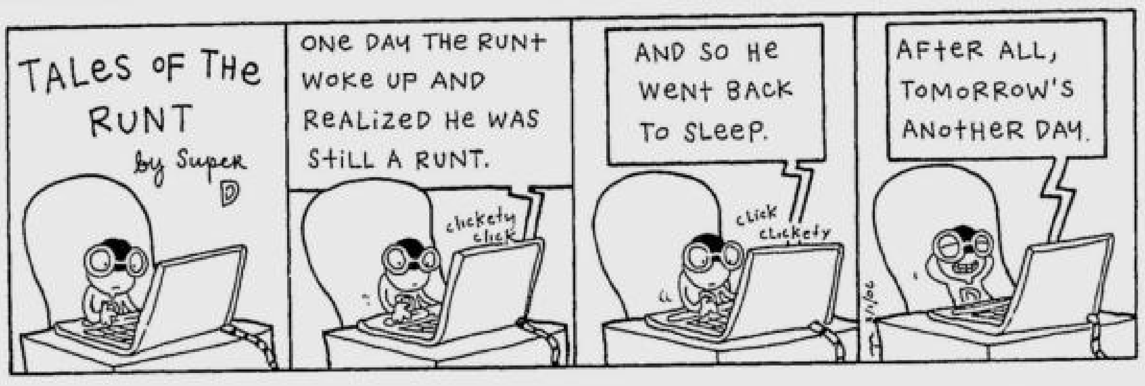
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IT'S AWFULLY NICE OF YOU GUYS TO OFFER TO WATCH MARVIN SO I CAN WORK ON MY BOOK. HE'S QUITE A HANDFUL
HE'S ALSO QUITE AN ARMFUL!
3-1

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SO YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO STAY HOME FROM WORK TODAY?
I HAVE A COLD! I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE IN YOUR WAY.
JUST PRETEND LIKE I'M NOT HERE, AND JUST DO WHAT YOU WOULD NORMALLY DO.
EXCEPT FOR MAKING THE BED.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


TALES OF THE RUNT by Super D
ONE DAY THE RUNT WOKE UP AND REALIZED HE WAS STILL A RUNT.
clickety click
AND SO HE WENT BACK TO SLEEP.
click clickety
AFTER ALL, TOMORROW'S ANOTHER DAY.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very artistic. Many of you also have excellent technical abilities. Essentially, you appreciate beauty and see it all around you. You have a strong sense of justice. Personally, you always look good because you pay attention to details. Others love your easygoing, warm personality. An important choice awaits you this year. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Ron Howard, director; Roger Daltrey, musician; Harry Belafonte, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel restless, perhaps even rebellious today. You especially feel this with regard to the government and large institutions you might have to deal with.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You know it's time to get credit for what you do. This is why you feel independent and rebellious today. Something could happen that is just the last straw, and you're going to speak up!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Gifts and goodies come to you at this time. Partners and friends are very good to you now. Some of you will receive inheritances; others will benefit from the wealth of partners.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Expect to meet someone unusual today, perhaps a real character. The world feels very energetic today, which is why it's hard to predict what others will do.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Unexpected opportunities related to higher education and travel could come your way today. If so, grab them. Your window of opportunity will be very brief.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): People are definitely surprising today. Since you're not sure which way somebody else is going to jump, go slowly and don't try to second-guess anything or anyone!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Expect interruptions at work today. New technology or a breakdown in existing technology (computers and electricity) might occur. Be patient with authority figures today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): New romance is exciting. Unexpected pleasures come your way. However, parents must be diligent about their child-care responsibilities today.

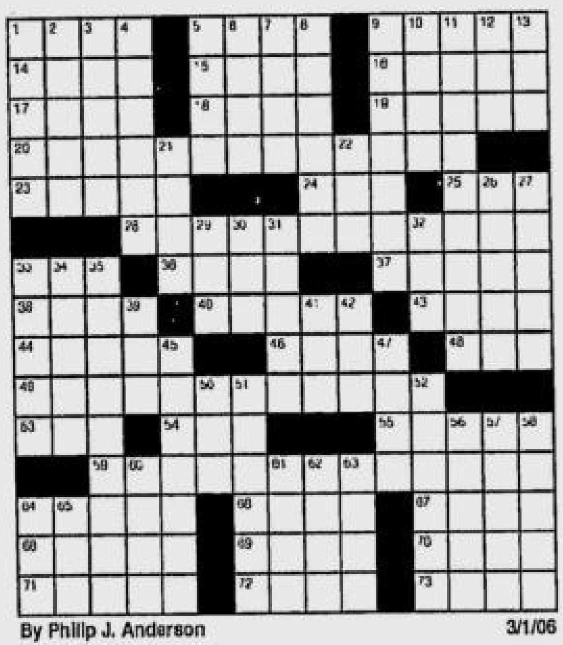
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Interruptions at home or to your domestic routine are likely today. Perhaps you'll bring home some new computer-related equipment or something for your home entertainment? Little surprises are in store for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Trust your bright ideas today. You're capable of seeing a whole new slant on something. Fresh insights are possible now. This is a good day to sign contracts or enter into agreements.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Unexpected ways to earn money, as well as unexpected ways to spend money, occur to you today. Actually, some of these could turn out to be good long-term investments.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're energetic and restless today. Fortunately, you will look before you leap. Your willingness to entertain new ideas and new ways of doing things could benefit you for a long time ahead.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
3/1/06

ACROSS
1 Burrowing mollusk
5 "The Beverly Hillbillies" co-star
9 One Astaire
14 Hindu deity
15 "Fernando" group
16 Cook with dry heat
17 Warning sign
18 Lahr or Lance
19 Oxidizes
20 Financial fantasy?
23 Gymnast Comaneci
24 Vegas intro
25 Q-U link
28 Financial fantasy?
33 Play division
36 Marsh bird
37 __ Hawkins Dance
38 Stimulus
40 Scheming group
43 Adroit
44 Parcel out
46 Early Coloradoans
48 Small inlet
49 Financial fantasy?
53 Mule's sire
54 Homily topic
55 __ del Sol
59 Financial fantasy?
64 Domicile
66 Solemnly swear
67 Pisa's river
68 Leafy recess
69 Take a shine to
70 Type of estate?
71 Abates
72 Took off
73 Fabled archer

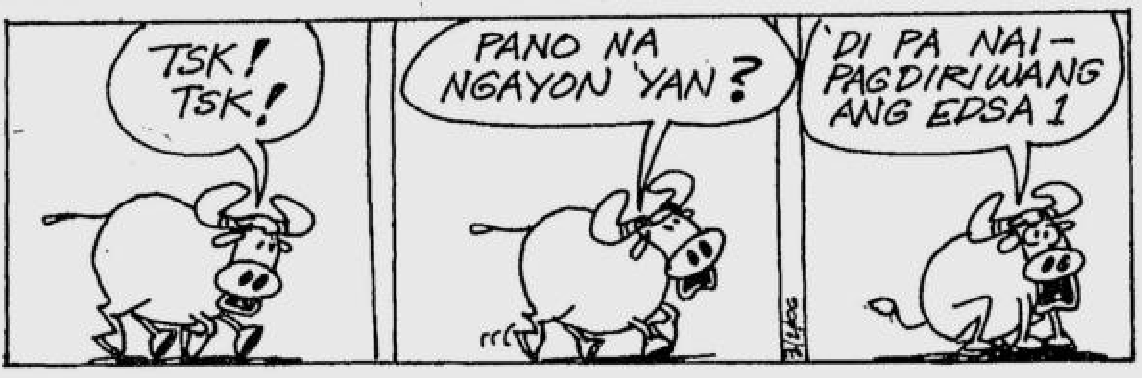
DOWN
1 Ornamental circlet
2 Female vampire
3 Change for the better
4 Praying __
5 Foxy lady
6 Biblical victim
7 Spanish river
8 Baby's toy
9 Collars
10 Ill-humored
11 1969 Peter Fonda flick
12 D-Day transport
13 UFO crew
21 Milliner's specialty
22 Mai __ cocktail
26 Bookstore sect.
27 Fraternity letter
29 Mythical bird
30 Pers. pension
31 Afghanistan's capital
32 Excellent, slangily
33 Old World lizard
34 Pepsi and Coke
35 Chat programs
39 Jane or John
41 NATO word
42 Luau souvenir
45 Beverage samplers
47 Civil rights org.
50 Frontier scout Carson
51 Into two
52 Small racer
56 Lively outing
57 Having harmony
58 Coral formation
60 __ fixe
61 Bad
62 Witticism
63 Enthralled
64 Justice Fortas
65 Big constrictor

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

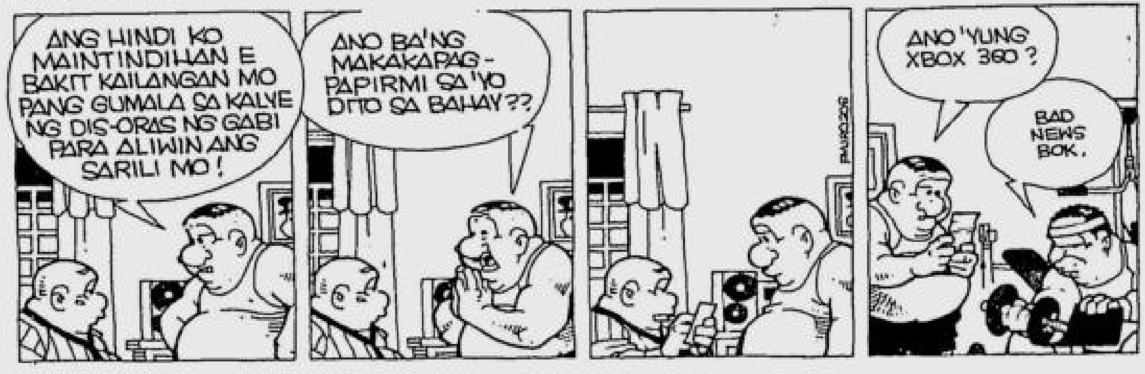
R	I	S	E	R	■	P	R	O	F	■	A	H	O	Y
E	M	C	E	E	■	R	E	D	O	■	P	O	R	E
P	A	I	N	T	S	O	V	E	R	■	A	N	E	W
E	G	O	■	I	N	N	S	■	E	G	R	E	S	S
L	E	N	■	N	U	T	■	T	H	A	T	S	■	■
■	■	■	T	U	G	O	F	W	A	R	■	I	O	U
D	O	N	E	E	■	■	R	I	N	S	I	N	G	S
A	G	A	R	■	B	L	O	N	D	■	M	O	L	E
T	R	I	M	A	R	A	N	■	■	C	A	N	E	S
E	E	L	■	D	A	Y	D	R	E	A	M	■	■	■
■	■	S	W	I	S	S	■	E	L	M	■	A	D	D
C	A	D	E	T	S	■	E	A	S	E	■	B	R	O
A	L	O	E	■	H	A	M	M	E	R	S	O	U	T
L	E	W	D	■	A	C	M	E	■	A	U	D	I	T
L	E	N	S	■	T	E	A	R	■	S	E	E	D	Y

(C)2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved
3/1/06

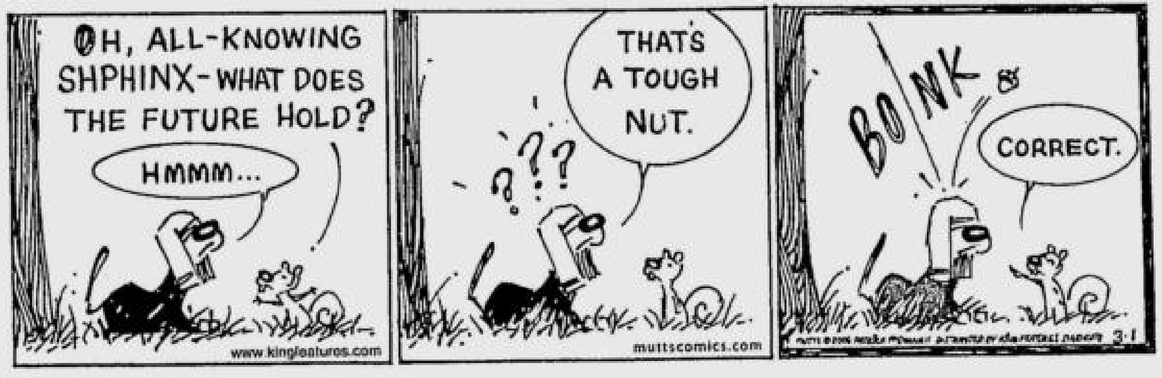
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


TSK! TSK!
PANO NA NGAYON 'YAN?
'DI PA NAIPAGDIRIWANG ANG EDSA 1

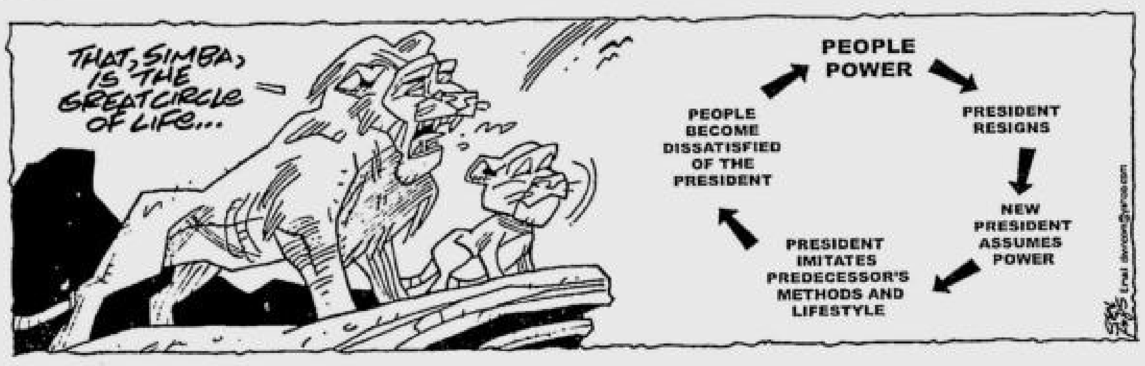
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG HINDI KO MAINTINDIHAN E BAKIT KAILANGAN MO PANG GUMALA SA KALYE NG DIS-ORAS NG GABI PARA ALIWIN ANG SARILI MO!
ANO BA'NG MAKAKAPAGPAPIRMI SA'YO DITO SA BAHAY??
ANO 'YUNG XBOX 360?
BAD NEWS BOK.

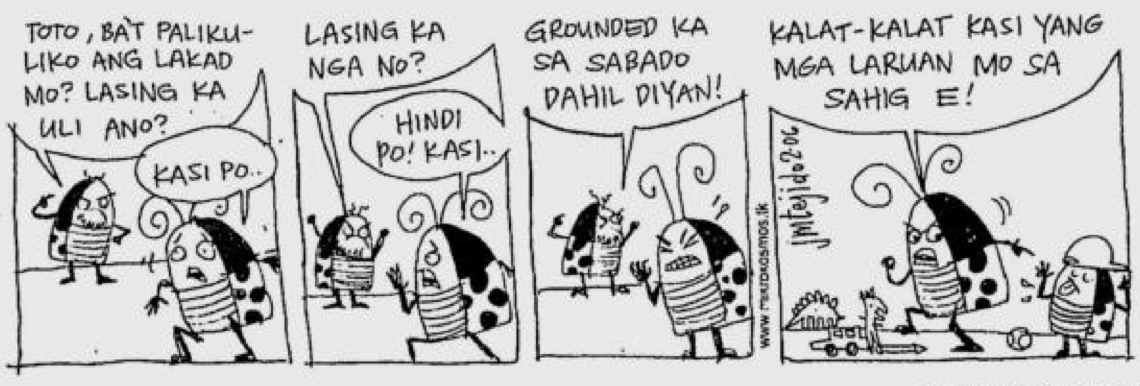
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, ALL-KNOWING SHPHINX- WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?
HMMM...
???
THAT'S A TOUGH NUT.
BONK
CORRECT.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
3-1

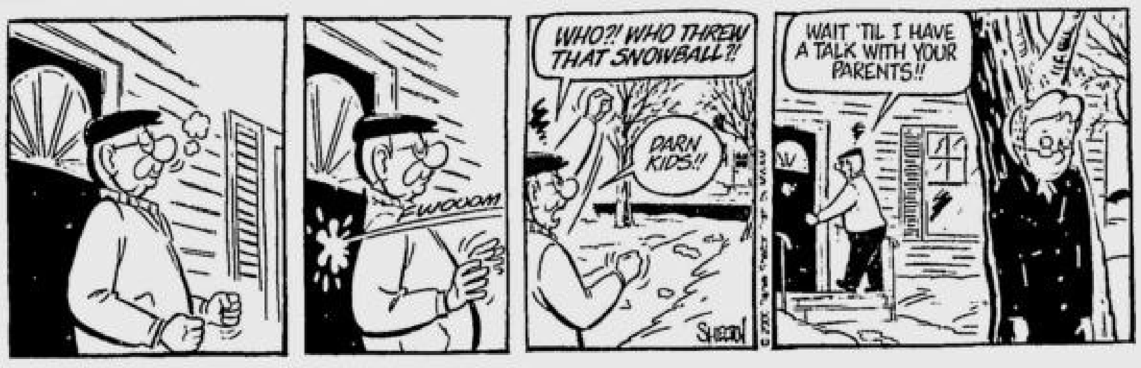
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THAT, SIMBA, IS THE GREAT CIRCLE OF LIFE...
PEOPLE POWER
PRESIDENT RESIGNS
NEW PRESIDENT ASSUMES POWER
PRESIDENT IMITATES PREDECESSOR'S METHODS AND LIFESTYLE
PEOPLE BECOME DISSATISFIED OF THE PRESIDENT

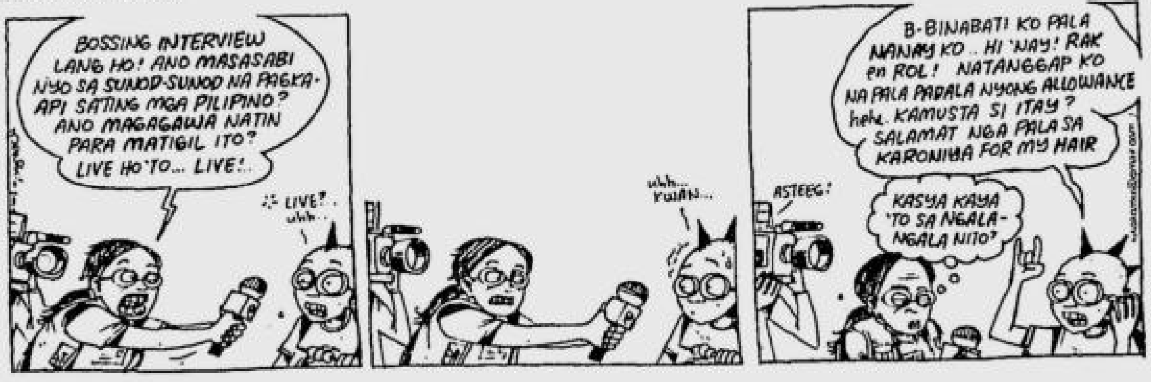
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TOTO, BA'T PALIKU-LIKO ANG LAKAD MO? LASING KA ULI ANO?
KASI PO..
LASING KA NGA NO?
HINDI PO! KASI..
GROUNDED KA SA SABADO DAHIL DIYAN!
KALAT-KALAT KASI YANG MGA LARUAN MO SA SAHIG E!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
jmtejido2006

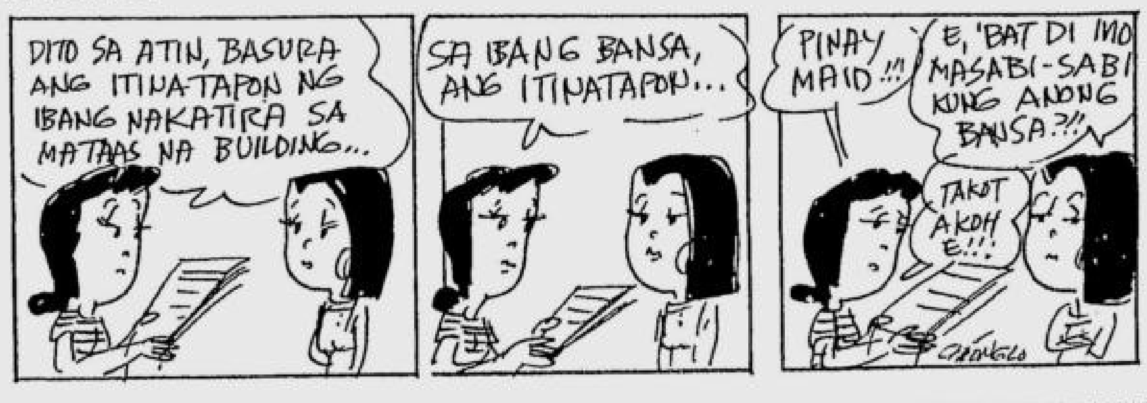
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


FWOOOM
WHO?! WHO THREW THAT SNOWBALL?!
DARN KIDS!!
WAIT 'TIL I HAVE A TALK WITH YOUR PARENTS!!

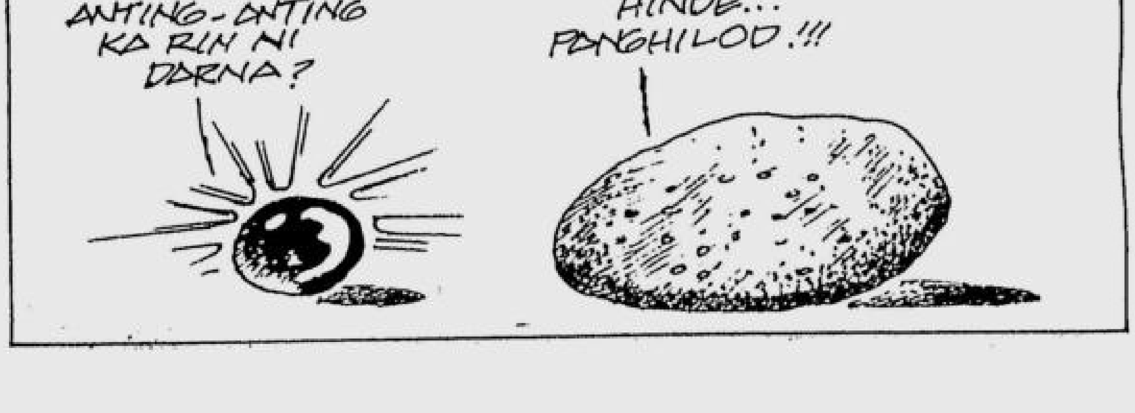
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


BOSSING INTERVIEW LANG HO! ANO MASASABI NYO SA SUNOD-SUNOD NA PAGKA-API SATING MGA PILIPINO? ANO MAGAGAWA NATIN PARA MATIGIL ITO? LIVE HO'TO... LIVE!..
LIVE?.. uhh...
uhh... KWAN...
ASTEEG!
B-BINABATI KO PALA NANAY KO.. HI 'NAY! RAK en ROL! NATANGGAP KO NA PALA PADALA NYONG ALLOWANCE hehe. KAMUSTA SI ITAY? SALAMAT NGA PALA SA KARONIWA FOR MY HAIR
KASYA KAYA 'TO SA NGALA-NGALA NITO?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DITO SA ATIN, BASURA ANG ITINATAPON NG IBANG NAKATIRA SA MATAAS NA BUILDING...
SA IBANG BANSA, ANG ITINATAPON...
PINAY MAID!!!
E, 'BAT DI MO MASABI-SABI KUNG ANONG BANSA?!!
TAKOT AKOH E!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANTING-ANTING KA RIN NI DARNA?
HINDE... PANGHILOD!!!

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Emmie G. Velarde

: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

OPENING TODAY

Nasaan si Francis?

Stars Epy Quizon, Paolo Contis, Ricky Davao, Christopher de Leon
Directed by Gabriel Fernandez

A finalist in the first Cinemalaya and a product of the 2003 Being Batch of Negros Summer Workshops, Fernandez's script convinced award-winning stars De Leon and Quizon and producer Unitel to bankroll this directorial debut. A protégé of acclaimed filmmakers Peque Gallaga and Lore Reyes, Fernandez gathers a motley cast and crew in telling his story of naïve young men lost in the drug underworld. Inquirer columnist Nestor Torre says: "[De Leon's performance is] a standout… creative, fresh and vital… a loopy portrayal which lends the film a winning zest and zing."

Pride and Prejudice

Stars Keira Knightley, Matthew Macfadyen, Donald Sutherland, Judi Dench
Directed by Joe Wright

Jane Austen's "romantic, witty and emotional" novel is once again brought to the big screen after 65 years. The Bennet couple's tragic-comic attempts to marry off five daughters serve as the backbone of this "classic tale of love and misunderstanding, which unfolds in class-conscious 18th century England." Eleanor Ringel Gillespie of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution thinks the film "does Austen proud… compact, fast-paced and with a spirited, 'let's party' immediacy that makes the characters not only come alive, but also easy to identify with." Knightley, who merited an Oscar nod as the heroine, is described by Glenn Whipp of the Los Angeles Daily News as radiant. "She shines… in a thrilling piece of cinema that announces the arrival of both a filmmaker and an actress."

Capote

Stars Philip Seymour Hoffman, Catherine Keener, Clifton Collins Jr., Chris Cooper
Directed by Bennett Miller

The biopic zooms in on six years of author Truman Capote's life as he puts together the revolutionary true-crime book, "In Cold Blood." A bestseller, the "non-fiction novel" triggers Capote's downward spiral to despair and alcoholism. Hoffman snagged an Oscar nomination and SAG and Golden Globe trophies for his finely etched portrayal. Raves Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times: "[It's] a film of uncommon strength and insight about a man whose great achievement requires the surrender of his self-respect… Hoffman's precise, uncanny performance doesn't imitate so much as channel him." Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly agrees: a "rapt, absorbing and thrillingly perceptive [film] … [that] honors its subject by doing just what Truman Capote did. It teases, fascinates and haunts." Exclusively at Ayala Cinemas.

Fearless

Stars Jet Li, Dong Yong, Collin Chou, Betty Sun
Directed by Ronny Yu

Touted as Li's last kung-fu movie, this epic chronicles the life of Chinese martial-arts hero Huo Yuanjia, founder and spiritual guru of the Jin Wu Sports Federation. Andrew Huang of Newsweek says Li's swan song "achieves the kind of success increasingly elusive for [action] stars … [it] represents his own attempt to secure an indelible place on the big screen." Patrick Frater of Variety reports that the film was a hit, earning "$3.73 million in China and $1 million in Hong Kong." Xu Wei of Shanghai Daily opines: "Though some people doubt its artistry, [it's] still eye-catching due to Li's dazzling kung-fu skills … it earned more than 'King Kong' in China."

'I'm still in shock!'

Fil-Am Cheryl Burke wins 'Dancing with the Stars' in US, with celebrity partner Drew Lachey

PEOPLE say Drew was lucky he danced with Cheryl, who was backed up by Pinoys. REUTERS

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—"I STILL CANnot believe it. I'm still in shock!"

These were the words of Filipino-American choreographer-dancer Cheryl Burke, 21, who talked with INQUIRER Entertainment after she and celebrity partner Drew Lachey of 98 Degrees won the popular ABC dance competition "Dancing with the Stars," now on its second season.

Lachey went up to Cheryl's mom, Sherri Bautista Burke, in the audience, and said, "Thank you for everything!" The older Burke explained in a phone interview: "He meant thanks... to all Filipinos who voted for them."

The winning couple went straight to a Hollywood party held in their honor. Monday at 4 a.m. (Tuesday evening in Manila), they were to be interviewed via satellite on the New York-based "Good Morning America." Then they fly to New York to appear on the program live on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila). They are also set to guest on the top-rated shows of Jay Leno, Oprah Winfrey and Tony Danza.

Then, Cheryl said, she will visit the Philippines. "She received offers to do some endorsements,"

I'M STILL/ A2-2

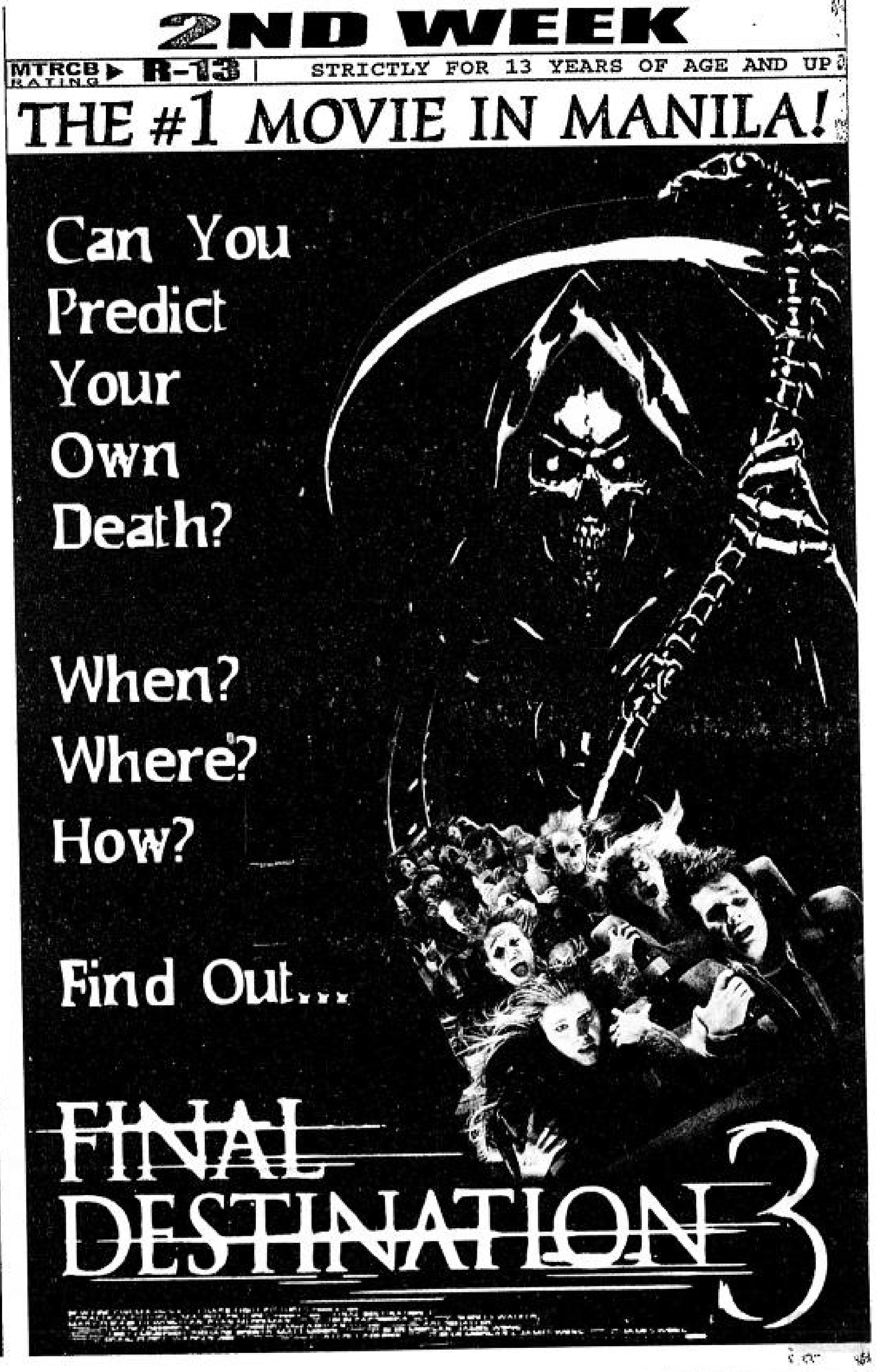
EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 FEARLESS
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

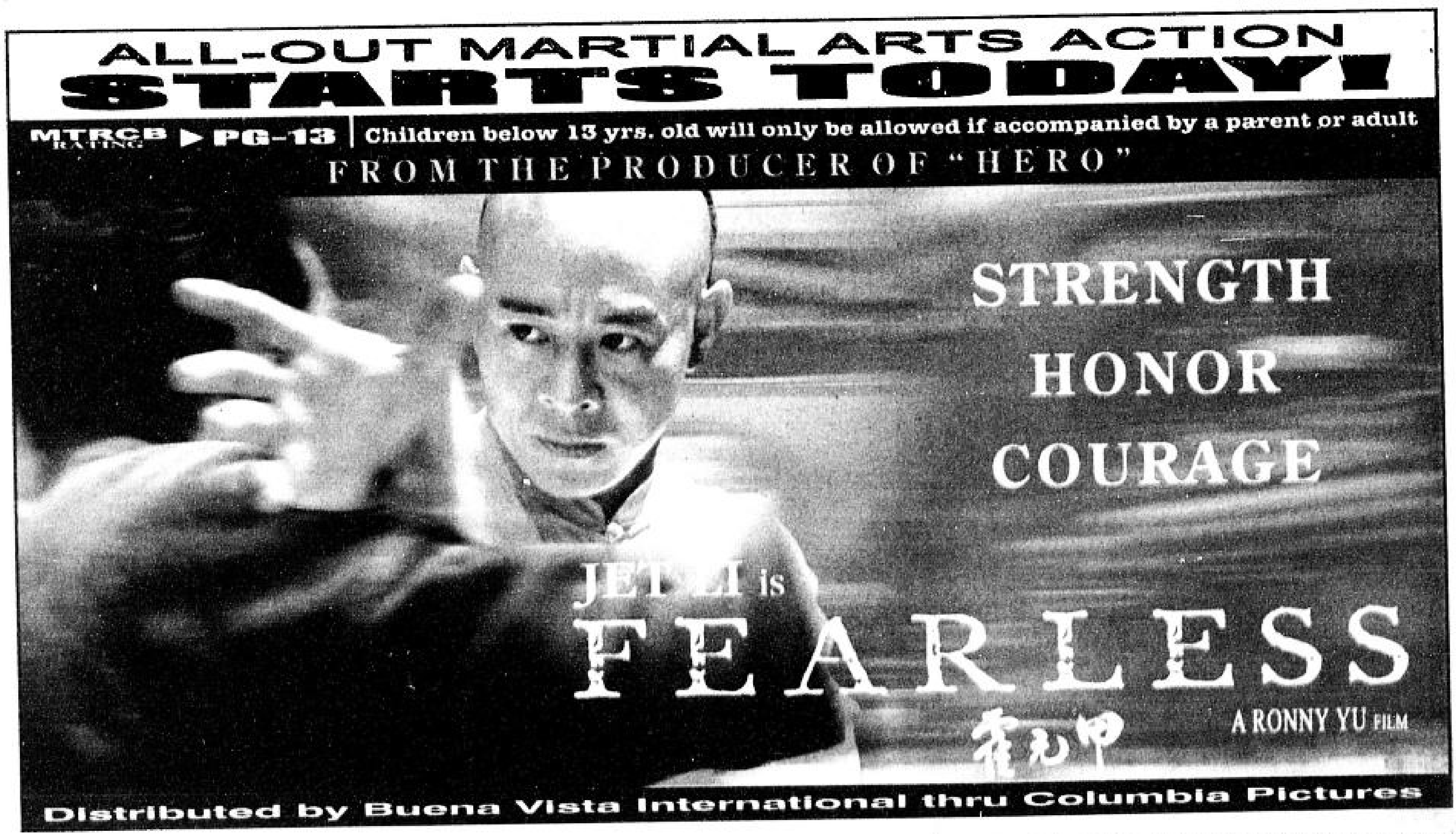
2 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:00
PG-13

3 PRIDE & PREJUDICE
12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00
GP

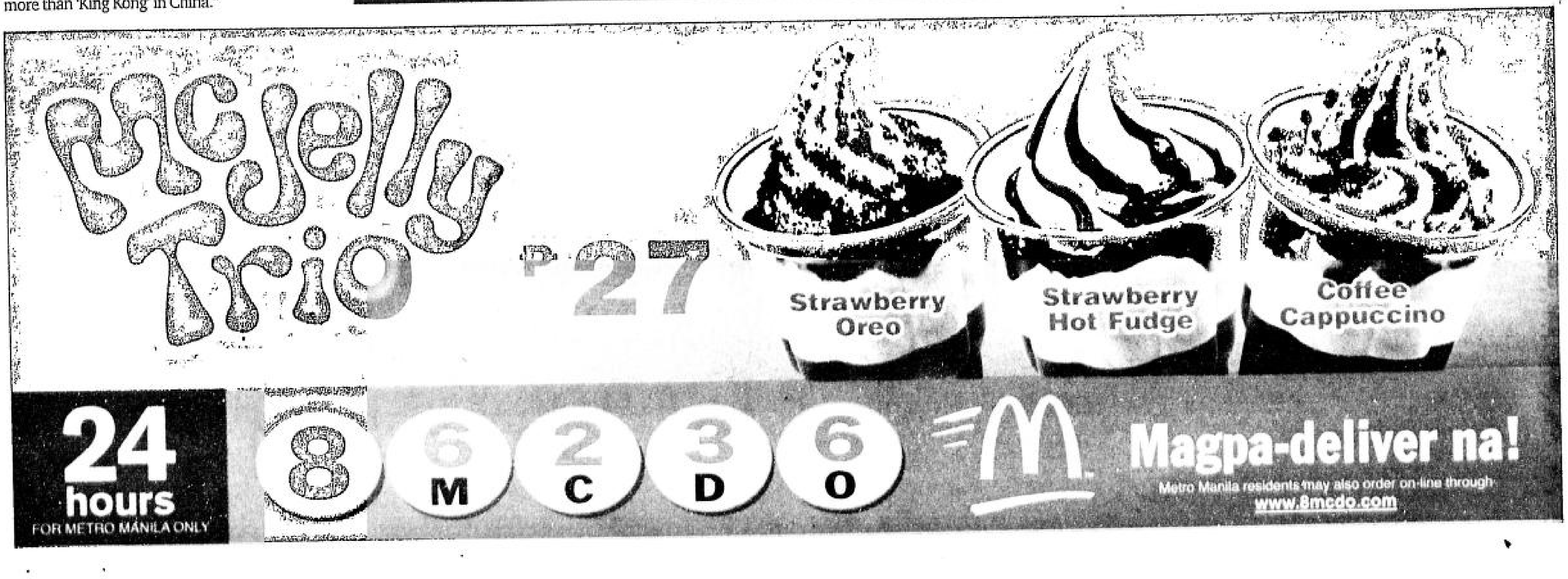
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
GP



2ND WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA!
Can You Predict Your Own Death?
When? Where? How?
Find Out...
FINAL DESTINATION 3



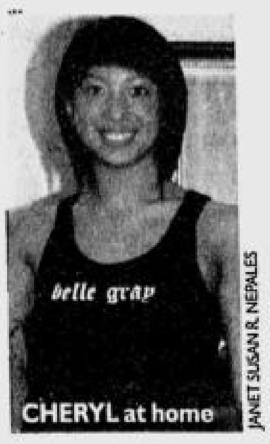
ALL-OUT MARTIAL ARTS ACTION
STARTS TODAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
FROM THE PRODUCER OF "HERO"
STRENGTH
HONOR
COURAGE
JET LI is FEARLESS
霍元甲
A RONNY YU FILM
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



McJelly Trio
₱27
Strawberry Oreo
Strawberry Hot Fudge
Coffee Cappuccino
24 hours FOR METRO MANILA ONLY
8 6 2 3 6
M C D O
Magpa-deliver na!
Metro Manila residents may also order on-line through www.8mcdo.com

'I'm still in shock!'

From page A2-1



CHERYL at home

JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

her mom said.

Family affair

Sherri was at the finals with her husband Dr. Robert Wolf, their daughter Nicole and Cheryl's choreographer-friend Wendy Johnson.

The proud Daly City-based mom said she prayed hard on Sunday. "I went to St. Brendan Church [in LA]."

She said she met Filipino churchgoers there, who said they were "supporting our fellow Filipino [in the contest]."

Sherri, a nurse who runs three health-care related businesses, said her co-nurses told her, "Drew is lucky because he had Cheryl as choreographer. A lot of Filipinos in America voted for them."

"So," Sherri noted, "[it was] also a victory for the three million Filipinos in the US!"

Hearing they had won over NFL great Jerry Rice and Stacy Keibler, Lachey gave out a loud "Whoooooooa!" and Cheryl started jumping up and down.

Elvis song

For their finale number, the couple did a jive number to the music of Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog."

Judges found their finale number "the most exciting."

Fifty percent of the votes came from viewers, via phone and online polls.

From the start, Cheryl and Drew were the couple with the best chemistry among all the 10 couples competing.

Some of the celebrities earlier eliminated were Fil-Am actress Tia Carrere and actor George Hamilton. The others who were present for a last dance on Sunday were ESPN sportscaster Kenny Mayne, actress Tatum O'Neal, news personality Giselle Fernandez, rap star Master P and talk show host Lisa Rinna.

"Dancing with the Stars" ran unprecedented two-fold full page color ads in major US Sunday papers. It ranked 7th in prime time ratings in a recent Nielsen Media Research.

SM CINEMA
movietime
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999*
CENTER Stage
LIVE-LARGE
831-1000 loc. 2871, 2873, 2883, 2891
BIG MOVIES • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

NOW SHOWING AT SM CINEMA

STRENGTH
HONOR
COURAGE
JET LI
FEARLESS

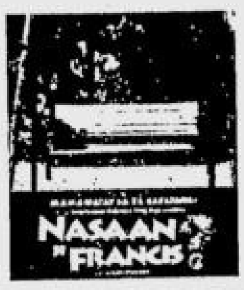
FEARLESS

Witness Jet Li perform the best Wushu techniques in his last martial arts movie

2 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST MOTION PICTURE
BEST ACTRESS
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
PRIDE&PREJUDICE

PRIDE&PREJUDICE

Keira Knightley and Matthew MacFadyen play the couple on this classic romantic novel



NASAAN SI FRANCIS?

Laugh your heart out with the story of a guy named Francis on how he surprised the people around him

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 FERALESS
01:40 FS / 02:05 MF / 04:20 / 06:35
08:25 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:50 END
2 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
12:40 FS / 01:00 MF / 04:35 / 06:45
08:15 LFS / 08:50 LMF / 10:55 END
MEGAMALL
1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
12:30 FS / 12:05 MF / 03:35 / 06:410
09:10 LFS / 09:40 LMF / 12:05 END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 02:00 / 04:30 / 07:00
09:22 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:50 END
2 FEARLESS
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:05 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
3 AEON FLUX
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
7:30 / 09:05 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END

movietime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
3 FEARLESS
4 RESERVED
5 PINK PANTHER
6 SYRIANA
7 AEON FLUX
8 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
12 FIREWALL

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 FEARLESS
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 FIREWALL
7 AEON FLUX
8 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
9 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
10 SYRIANA

SM [illegible]BUTAN
1 FEARLESS
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM SUPER[illegible]VALENZUELA
1 FEARLESS
2 AEON FLUX
3 SYRIANA
4 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 AEON FLUX
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 PINK PANTHER
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
7 FEARLESS
8 CLOSE TO YOU
9 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
10 FIREWALL
11 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
12 SAW 2

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FEARLESS
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
6 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
7 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
8 AEON FLUX
9 PINK PANTHER
10 RESERVED

SM SUPE[illegible] SUCAT
1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 FEARLESS
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 FEARLESS
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
4 RESERVED
5 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
7 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY MANILA
1 FEARLESS
2 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
3 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
5 PINK PANTHER
6 FINAL DESTINATION 3
7 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 AEON FLUX
11 NEW WORLD
12 FIREWALL

SM CIT[illegible] LAZARO
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
4 FEARLESS
5 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
6 CLOSE TO YOU

Experience SM City fun at SM CINEMA Sta. Rosa

TICKET SAVERS
Get 4 Cinema tickets P300

SNACK SAVERS P140

NOW OPEN
Per DTI-IVA Permit no 02-013
Series of 2006

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 FEARLESS
2 AEON FLUX
3 LITTLE MANHATTAN
4 BLOODRAYNE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SAW 2
2 WALK THE LINE
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FEARLESS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 FEARLESS
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 AEON FLUX

SM CITY BACOOR
1 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
2 SYRIANA
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
5 FEARLESS
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
8 AEON FLUX

SM C[illegible]
1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 NEW WORLD
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FEARLESS

SM [illegible]
1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 AEON FLUX

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 FEARLESS
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 WALK THE LINE
4 AEON FLUX

SM [illegible]
1 GOAL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
4 FIREWALL

SM [illegible]
1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 ST. ANGE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2 FEARLESS
3 AEON FLUX
4 WALK THE LINE
5 PRIME
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY ILOILO
1 AEON FLUX
2 RESERVED
3 GOAL
4 WALK THE LINE
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 FIREWALL
7 RESERVED
8 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY DAVAO
1 FEARLESS
2 PROOF
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 BLOODRAYNE
5 WALK THE LINE
6 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY [illegible] DE ORO
1 FEARLESS
2 MUNICH
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 CLOSE TO YOU

THE APO EXPERIENCE
MARCH 11, 2006
SATURDAY • 8:30 PM
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3
Tickets at P600 • P800 • P 1,200
Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-5610/ 891-9999

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway Alimall FarmersPlaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

THE FEARLESS 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	PRIDE & PREJUDICE 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20	PINK PANTHER 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
FINAL DESTINATION 3 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	CLOSE TO YOU 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 1:10 / 4:00 / 6:50 / 9:40	PRIDE & PREJUDICE 12:30 / 3:15 / 6:00 / 8:45
NASAAN SI FRANCIS 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

ALIMALL CINEMAS

1 CLOSE TO YOU 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	2 THE FEARLESS 12:15 R2 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 12:15 R3 / 2:15 / 5:05 / 7:55	5 NASAAN SI FRANCIS 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

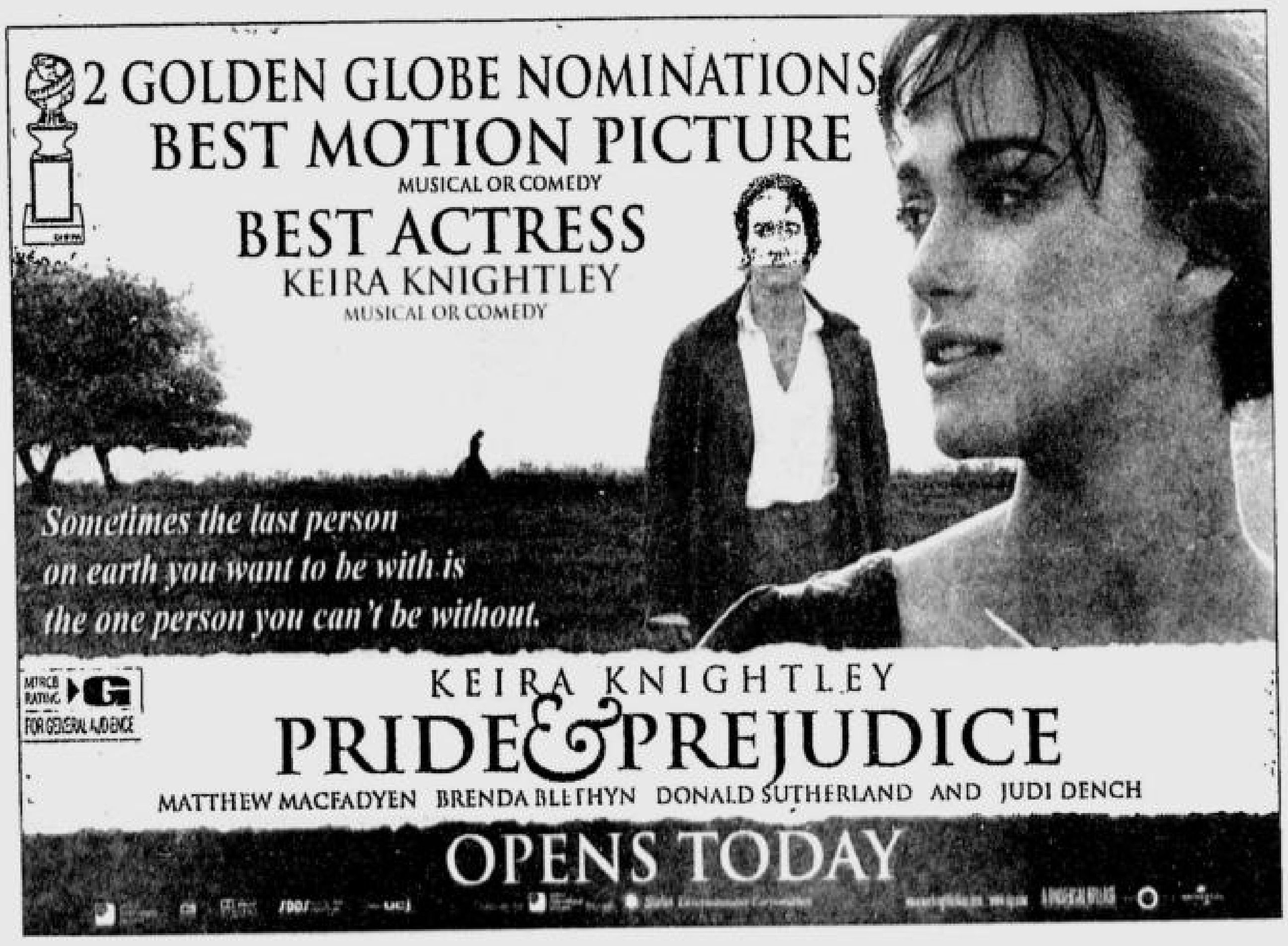
For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM

Bb PILIPINAS CORONATION NIGHT MARCH 4, SATURDAY 8 pm	HERMAN HERMITS - PETER NOONE CONCERT MARCH 17, FRIDAY 8 pm

OPENS MARCH 8
TO RESSURECT THE DEAD, THE LIVING MUST BE SACRIFICED.

SEAN BEAN
MARIA BELLO
THE DARK
BASED ON TRUE EVENTS


2 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST MOTION PICTURE
MUSICAL OR COMEDY
BEST ACTRESS
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
MUSICAL OR COMEDY
Sometimes the last person on earth you want to be with is the one person you can't be without.
MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
PRIDE&PREJUDICE
MATTHEW MACFADYEN BRENDA BLETHYN DONALD SUTHERLAND AND JUDI DENCH
OPENS TODAY

Political films make strong comeback

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FILM YEARS 2005 AND 2006 HAVE BEEN hailed as the time for gender-bending movies ("Brokeback Mountain," "Transamerica," "Capote"), but **Oliver Stone** begs to differ.

In a forum at the ongoing Bangkok International Film Festival, Stone declared that the current period has more significantly been marked by the strong comeback of political films.

Stone knows whereof he speaks, since he himself has been responsible for some of the best political movies made in the United States, from "Platoon" to "JFK."

So, when Oliver Stone talks about political movies enjoying a big revival, we should all listen.

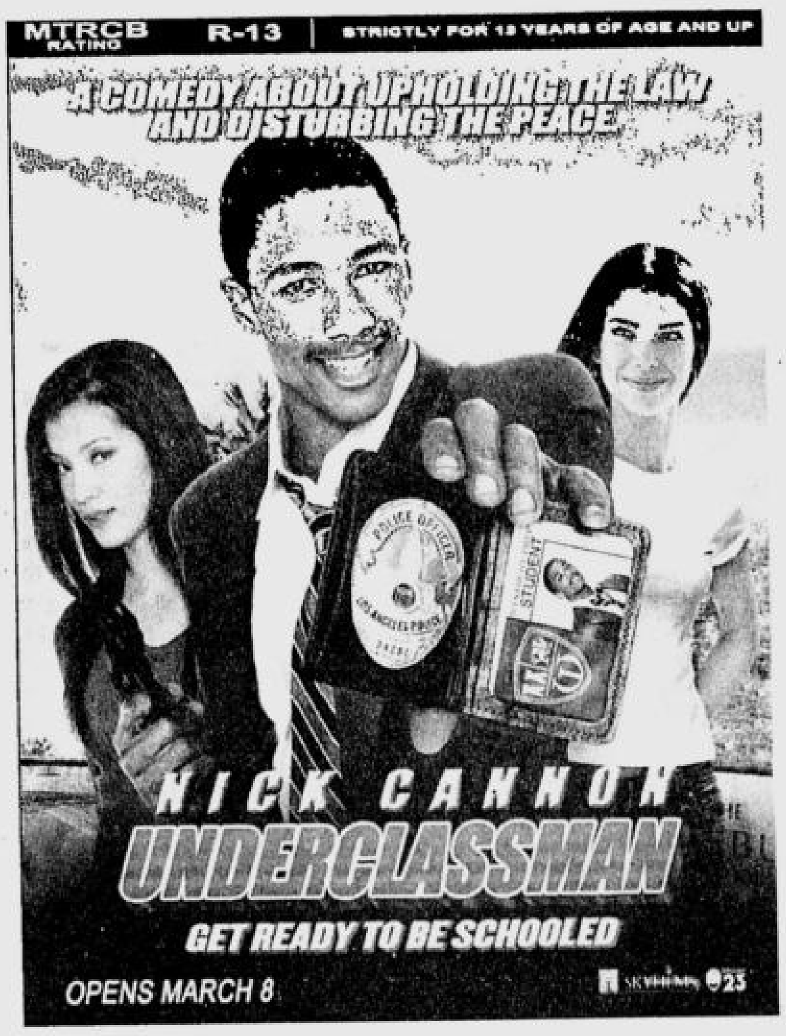
To prove his point, Stone singles out some recent titles that have raised the bar for other engaged and pro-people movies: **Steven Spiel**

POLITICAL/ A2-4

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SYRIANA R13	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 GP	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA GP
FEARLESS PG13	FINAL DESTINATION 3 R13	PRIDE AND PREJUDICE GP

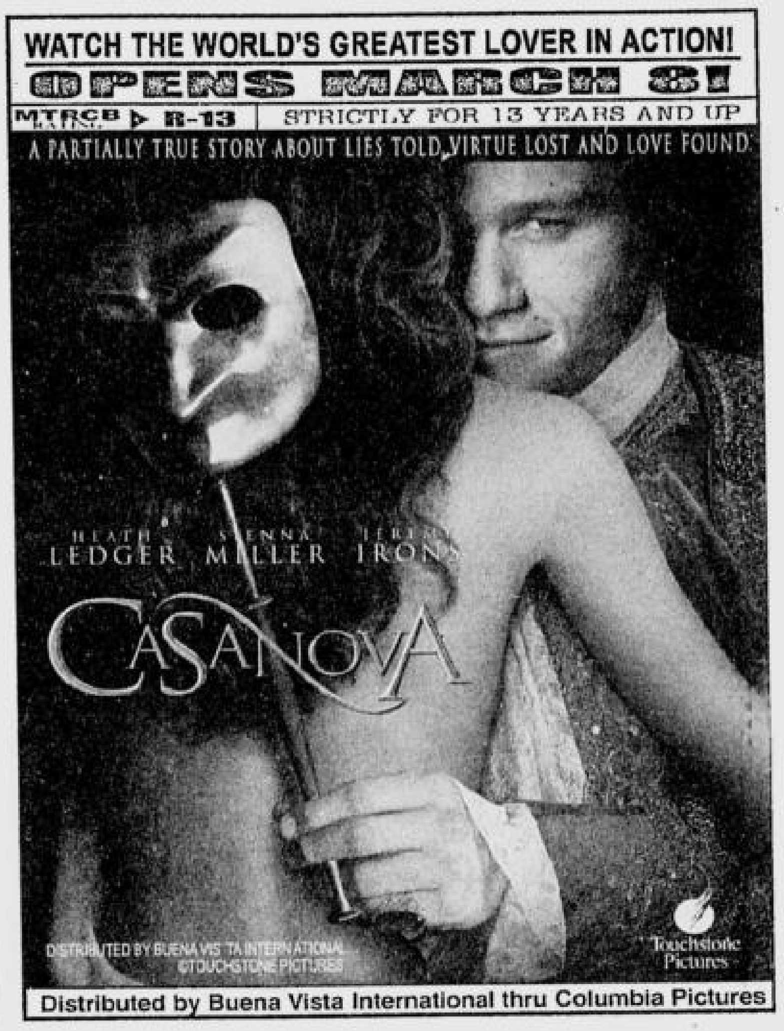
MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-144041
Matinee Screenings before 5:00 p.m. "Free Seating" P111.00 – Monday-Friday.


MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
A COMEDY ABOUT UPHOLDING THE LAW AND DISTURBING THE PEACE
STUDENT
NICK CANNON
UNDERCLASSMAN
GET READY TO BE SCHOOLED
OPENS MARCH 8
23

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINEES
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR GEORGE CLOONEY
BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY STEPHEN GAGHAN
"THE MOST THOUGHT-PROVOKING, MOST POWERFUL AND SIMPLY THE BEST FILM OF THE YEAR."
Richard Roeper, Ebert & Roeper
GOLDEN GLOBE® AWARD
WINNER
BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE IN A MOTION PICTURE
GEORGE CLOONEY
GEORGE CLOONEY MATT DAMON JEFFREY WRIGHT

"★★★★ 'SYRIANA' IS BRILLIANT. George Clooney is hypnotic, haunting and quietly devastating. Gaghan mixes potent writing with images that tear at the heart."
Peter Travers, Rolling Stone

FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD WINNING FILMMAKERS OF 'TRAFFIC'
SYRIANA
syrianamovie.com participate.net/oilchange
NOW SHOWING


WATCH THE WORLD'S GREATEST LOVER IN ACTION!
OPENS MARCH 8!
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
A PARTIALLY TRUE STORY ABOUT LIES TOLD, VIRTUE LOST AND LOVE FOUND.
HEATH LEDGER SIENNA MILLER JEREMY IRONS
CASANOVA
DISTRIBUTED BY BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL ©TOUCHSTONE PICTURES
Touchstone Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
MARTIN LAWRENCE
This Ain't Your Average Baby's Momma
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
NOW SHOWING
WWW.BIGMOMMASHOUSE2.COM

IN THEATERS MARCH 8
SHE HAS THREE WEEKS TO LIVE...
THE REST OF HER LIFE
QUEEN LATIFAH
LAST HOLIDAY
LastHolidayMovie.com
Solar Entertainment Corporation

TEXTIMONIALS
TEXT-IN COMMENTS AFTER THE SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING

NASAAN SI FRANCIS?

" Dead funny. "
- *CC REYES, Visual Artist*

" Ang galing nung cast! Masaya panoorin. "
- *NIX PUNO, Musician*

" Rico Blanco could well be the next heart-throb! Good movie! "
- *VICTORIA, College Student*

" Super cool. Really funny. "
- *BING, Student*

" Very Pinoy ang humor. Talagang mamamatay ka sa kakatawa. "
- *ANGELICA SISON, Doctor*

" Hahanapin ko uli si Francis - gusto ko pa tumawa."
- *ROMY, Salesman*

" Well made. Not bad for a first time director. I wish more Filipino movies were like this. "
- *CAROL, Secretary*

OPENS TODAY

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA • THX
2 FEARLESS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 GRANDMA'S BOY
5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
6 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
7 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
8 CLOSE TO YOU
9 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
10 PINK PANTHER

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 FEARLESS
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
NASAAN SI FRANCIS
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
6 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
7 GRANDMA'S BOY

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 FEARLESS
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
6 GRANDMA'S BOY
7 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
8 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 FEARLESS
2 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
6 NASAAN SI FRANCIS

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

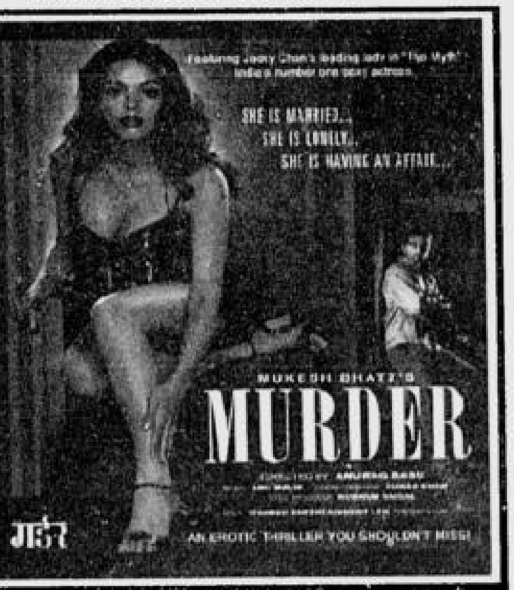
PIONEER 687-5378

1 FEARLESS
2 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

exclusive SCREENING
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA • ERMITA • NOVALICHES

starting
FEBRUARY 22
MTRCB Rating: R-18

For SCREENING SCHEDULES pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555 or visit us at www.robinsonsmovieworld.com


SHE IS MARRIED...
SHE IS LONELY...
SHE IS HAVING AN AFFAIR...
MUKESH BHATT'S
MURDER
AN EROTIC THRILLER YOU SHOULDN'T MISS!

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 FEARLESS
2 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
3 SYRIANA
4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
5 CLOSE TO YOU

LIPA (043) 757-3684 (043) 312-5870

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
4 MURDER
5 UNDERWORLD 2

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 FEARLESS
2 WALK THE LINE
3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
4 AEON FLUX
5 MURDER

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 FEARLESS
2 LITTLE MANHATTAN
3 AEON FLUX
4 CLOSE TO YOU

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 FEARLESS
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
4 MURDER
5 NASAAN SI FRANCIS

STARMILLS (045) 875-1923 (045) 961-5270

1 FEARLESS
2 LITTLE MANHATTAN
3 AEON FLUX
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 PINK PANTHER
6 SYRIANA

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 NEW WORLD
3 FIREWALL
4 GOAL
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
6 MUNICH

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 WALK THE LINE
2 GOAL
3 AEON FLUX
4 NEW WORLD
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 FIREWALL

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

JUICY FRUIT® Gimik Card
Buy 1 Take 1 Promo EXTENDED!
February 13 to March 31, 2006
Buy your Juicy Fruit Multipacks with Gimik Cards from selected Robinsons Supermarket and Supercenter branches nationwide. Redeem your Robinsons Movieworld Buy 1 Take 1 Coupon from the Customer Service Counters.
Per BFAD Permit No. 0189, series of 2006

Juicy Fruit
Gimik Card
WRIGLEY'S Juicy Fruit

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633785-1 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS PG13
2 (DOLBY) PRIDE AND PREJUDICE GP
3 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE GP
4 (DOLBY) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA PG13

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) PINK PANTHER GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) FEARLESS
2 (SDDS) FINAL DESTINATION-3
3 (DTS) PINK PANTHER
4 GOLD (DTS) MEMOIRS OF A GESIHA
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PRIDE & PREJUDICE
6 GOLD (SDDS) BIG MOMMAS HOUSE-2
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN
8 [illegible] NASAAN SI PRANCIS
9 [illegible] CLOSE TO YOU
10 [illegible] AEON FLUX

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
2 (DOLBY) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
3 (DOLBY) PRIDE & PREJUDICE
4 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 PRIDE & PREJUDICE
2 FEARLESS
3 BIG MOMMAS HOUSE-2
4 CLOSE TO YOU

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 FEARLESS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) PLEASE CALL
5 CLOSE TO YOU

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604285, 5433994

1 FEARLESS
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 AEON FLUX
4 PLEASE CALL

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600 3025

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN-2

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-5271

1 FIREWALL
2 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Blue Wave MAR. UNION
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
2 (DOLBY) CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) PLEASE CALL
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
2 PRIDE & PREJUDICE
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FINAL DESTINATION-3
5 AEON FLUX

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL
3 PLEASE CALL
4 PLEASE CALL

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 FEARLESS
2 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
3 CLOSE TO YOU

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 FEARLESS
2 CLOSE TO YOU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) FEARLESS
2 THE NEWWORLD
3 (DTS EX) CLOSE TO YOU
4 THE MAID

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 FIREWALL
2 GOAL
3 (DOLBY) MUNICH
4 (DTS) BLOODRAYNE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 FIREWALL
2 CLOSE TO YOU

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 FEARLESS
2 (DTS) CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
4 THE NEWWORLD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 FEARLESS
2 (DOLBY) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
3 (DTS) THE NEW WORLD
4 CLOSE TO YOU

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 FIREWALL
3 (DOLBY) CLOSE TO YOU

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) PINK PANTHER
4 (DTS) BLOODRAYNE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 SAW-2
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) PINK PANTHER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)

1 UNDERWORLD-2
2 CLOSE TO YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 MGA BATANG BANGKETA
2 PLEASE CALL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) MGA BATANG BANGKETA
2 PLEASE CALL
3 NAGDADALAGA
4 (DTS) KAKAIBANG KARISMA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
2 THE FRUIT IS SWELLING
3 (DTS) CLOSE TO YOU
4 THE NEW WORLD
5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
2 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 CRY WOLF

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 UNDERWORLD
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Political films ...

From page A2-3

berg's "Munich," **George Clooney's** "Good Night and Good Luck," and **Stephen Gaghan's** "Syriana." See these movies soonest!

In addition, we recently caught (at the Bangkok filmfest) the controversial Palestinian film, "Paradise Now." It's about two suicide bombers, and you can't get more political than that!

Filmmaking is usually about escape, so what makes a writer-director opt to confront relevant reality instead? Stone's personal and film bios provide us with some seminal leads and influences:

He served the US Army in Vietnam for two years, was wounded twice and decorated with the Bronze Star for Valor. He then studied at the New York University Film School.

Most significantly, he worked at a great range of jobs—taxi driver, messenger, production assistant, sales representatives, school teacher—which opened his eyes to the experiences and needs of a wide range of people.

His filmography testifies to the pro-people consequences of this deep and rich exposure: In 1978, Stone won his first Oscar for his screenplay for "Midnight Express," a film about a young American brutalized in a Turkish prison after being caught smuggling drugs.

He next wrote the screenplays of "Scarface" and "Year of the Dragon" before directing his first personal film, "Salvador," in which **James Woods** played journalist **Richard Boyle.**

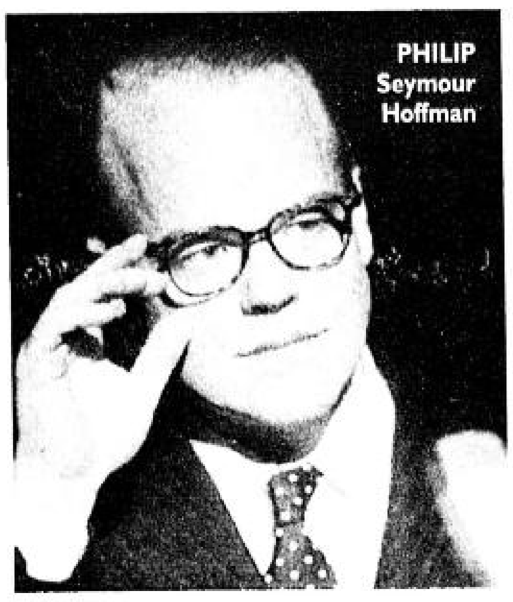
He followed up with the anti-war film "Platoon" in 1986. The movie war hailed as the first authentic look at the Vietnam war from the soldier's point of view, and won four Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Director.

Then came "Wall Street," "Talk Radio," "Born on the Fourth of July," "The Doors," "JFK," "Heaven and Earth," "Natural Born Killers," "Nixon," "Any Given Sunday" and "Alexander," most of them perceptively and audaciously political productions.

Stone's engaged oeuvres has inspired other filmmakers in different countries to also produce movies that confront their viewers' diverse realities, and we'll be profiling some of them later this week. The revival of political films in world cinema proceeds apace!

'Amazing Race Asia'

AXN is looking (until March 15) for participants to join "The Amazing Race Asia," the first "made in Asia for Asia" version of the popular globetrotting reality series. Ten to 12 teams will be selected to participate in the race, which will be produced in a series of 13 episodes. Each team will comprise two people with a preexisting relationship. The prize for the winning team is $100,000. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.axnasia.com. Address all inquiries to Amazing Race Asia@axnasia.com.


PHILIP
Seymour
Hoffman

Quirky humor, muted drama

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

THE SLOWLY PACED DRAMA "CAPOTE" doesn't discuss the acclaimed author's early years or the time leading to his popularity. Instead, the story focuses on the dark and dismal period that Truman Capote spent researching the facts behind a Kansas family's massacre in 1959, subject of his non-fiction book, "In Cold Blood."

The story only partially and vaguely expounds on the writer's motivations. The film's real draw is Oscar contender Philip Seymour Hoffman's performance. To paraphrase what his character explained about his works, they can't be all autobiographical, as his life has become rather dull. So we don't really see how he became the person that he is, or what he's trying to prove. He simply does what he can and excels in it. Those who expect a fuller retelling of the author's life—as its title might suggest a fleshy biopic—will be quite disappointed.

Distinctly offbeat

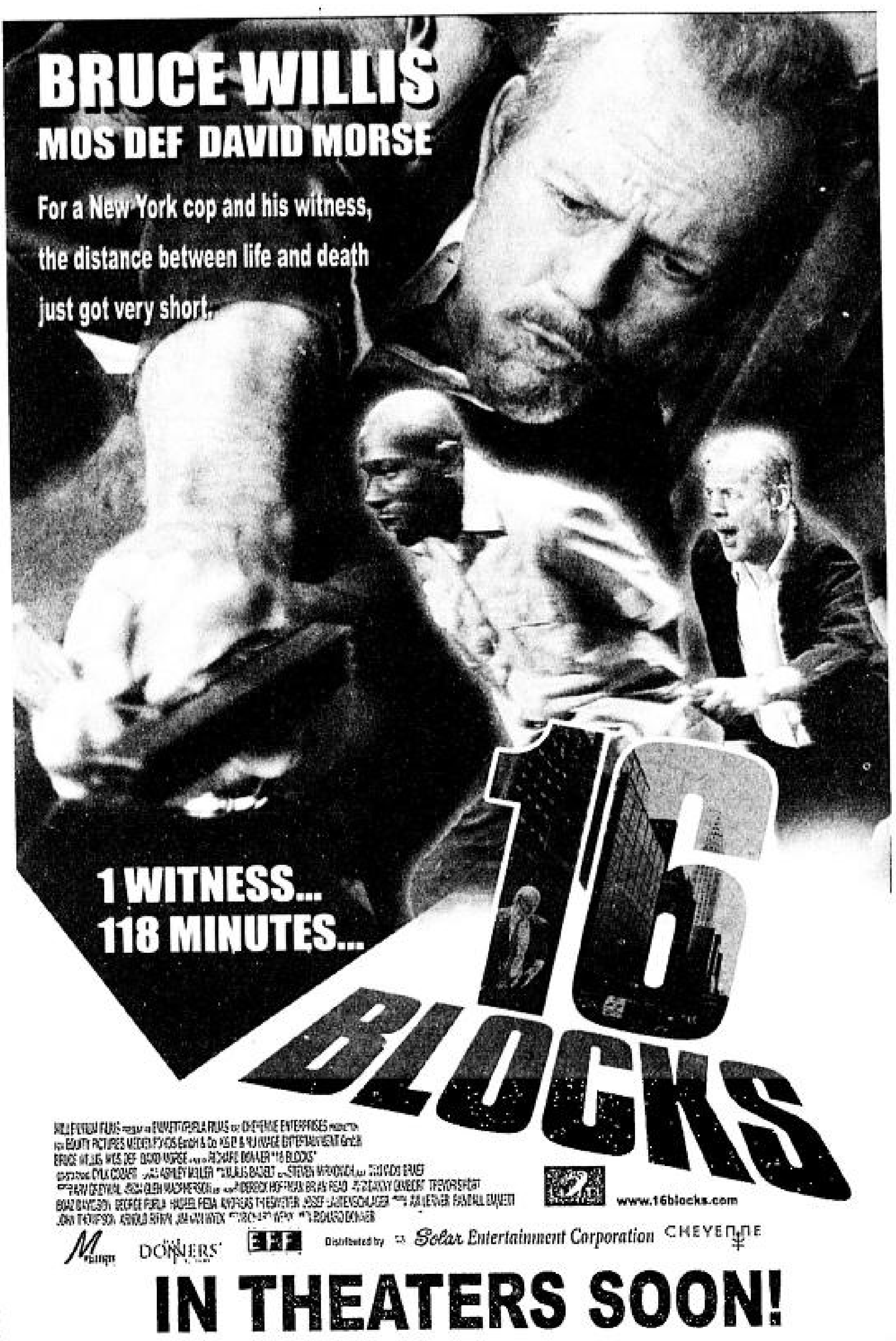
All we know is that Capote is beloved by a very literate crowd, has a quirky sense of humor, and is capable of fibbing and lying to get what he needs from people. His methods of extracting confessions from jailed murder suspects (Clifton Collins, Jr. and Mark Pellegrino) are unorthodox, but he gets his desired results.

Hoffman has landed a distinctly offbeat role yet again, giving Capote a wickedly playful aura that goes beyond the effeminate gestures and squeaky voice. We see him as eccentric yet human, his vulnerabilities making him just another guy burdened with extraordinary obligations.

Despite the initial challenge for viewers to stay awake through the first half, the direction by Bennett Miller keeps the main character interesting. We don't care for him absolutely, but beyond his witticisms as the life of the party and his subtle manipulations, we still see he's intriguing and amiable.

Then again, it still makes us wish that "Capote" delved into events that shaped his personality. It might have added to the strength of this important period in the author's life. Still, it's a muted, energy-sapping, and ponderous film kept interesting, if not entirely afloat, by Hoffman's unique and inspired portrayal.

'Capote' is held afloat by Philip Seymour Hoffman's performance


BRUCE WILLIS
MOS DEF DAVID MORSE
For a New York cop and his witness, the distance between life and death just got very short.
1 WITNESS... 118 MINUTES...
16 BLOCKS
www.16blocks.com
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
CHEYENNE
IN THEATERS SOON!

SHANG CINEPLEX
① FEARLESS
MTRCB: PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00 LMF
② PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
MTRCB. GP
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 LMF
③ BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
MTRCB GP
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
④ MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
MTRCB. PG-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 LMF
PREMIERE THEATRE PINK PANTHER
MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Get a Mini Shabu-Shabu Cash Certificate worth P100.00 for every single purchase of two (2) tickets of any movie at the Shang Cineplex.
Promo Period : Feb 15 to Mar 15, 2006. See Posters For Details
Per DTI-NCR Permit Number A3-0166, Series of 2006.
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

2ND 'CINDERELLA LOVE STORY' WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'CHICAGO'
www.SonyPictures.net
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	NASAAN SI FRANCIS	FEARLESS	FINAL DESTINATION 3	CLOSE TO YOU			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	FINAL DESTINATION 3	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	THX PRIDE & PREJUDICE GUARANTEED SEATS	CAPOTE	SYRIANA	FEARLESS	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
GB1 GREENBELT 1	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	FEARLESS					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX PRIDE & PREJUDICE GUARANTEED SEATS	THX FEARLESS GUARANTEED SEATS	CAPOTE GUARANTEED SEATS	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN GUARANTEED SEATS	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX FEARLESS	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	FINAL DESTINATION 3		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	FEARLESS	WALK THE LINE	PRIME	CLOSE TO YOU			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	FEARLESS	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	NASAAN SI FRANCIS	CLOSE TO YOU		

At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

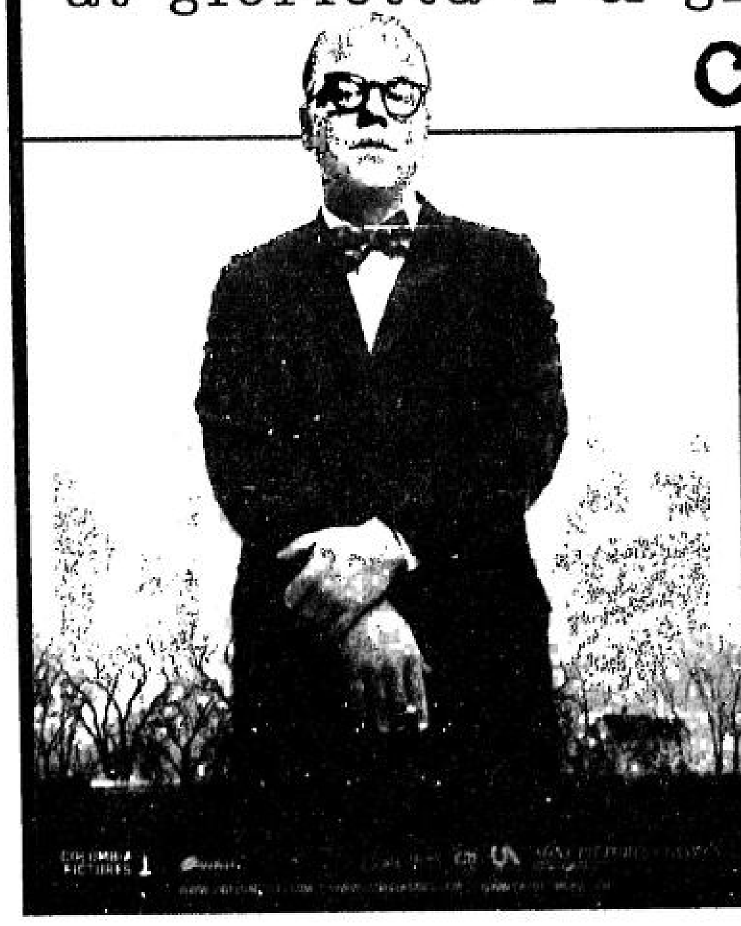
GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Sinutab Unclogged March 2, 2006	Ayala's Fab Malls welcome the FAB 5 March 11, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Jasmine Trias Autograph Signing March 2, 2006	Baby Looney Tunes In The Bwave Little Hero March 1 to 2, 2006

GREENBELT
Ayala Greenbelt's Chocolate Festival
February 13 to March 15, 2006

Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents
I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE
at REP's Globe Theater - March 3 to 5, 10 to 12, 2006
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Come & view the 20th ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBIT
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29,
Or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

opens today exclusively
at glorietta 4 & greenbelt 3
capote



NOMINATED FOR 5 ACADEMY AWARDS
INCLUDING
BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTOR - PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN
BEST DIRECTOR
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS - CATHERINE KEENER
BEST SCREENPLAY

WINNER
BEST PICTURE
National Society of Film Critics
Gotham Awards 2005
American Film Institute

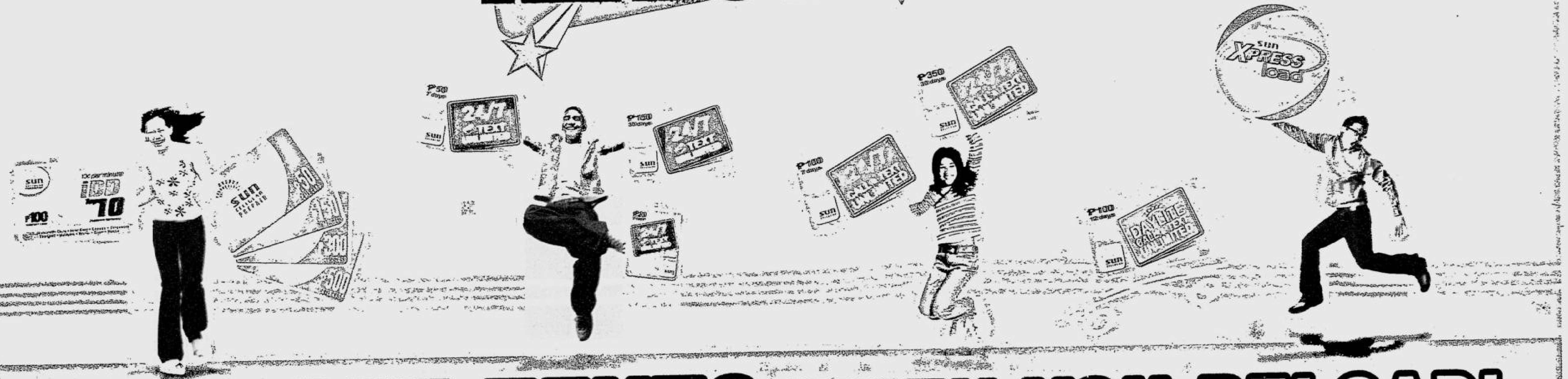
BEST ACTOR
PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN
Screen Actors Guild
Broadcast Film Critics Association
Chicago Film Critics Association
Los Angeles Film Critics Association
Independent Spirit Awards Nominee
Washington D.C. Area Film Critics
Boston Society of Film Critics
Utah Film Critics Association
Florida Film Critics Association
National Board Review
San Diego Film Critics

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

TIMEZONE presents
Selecta
MOO ART TIME
Recycled Art is Smart
An Art Competition for Grade School Students
March 4 • 10am-6pm
Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby
MEGA BLOKS
Drink your choco vitamins!

THE YEAR'S GRAND BLOCKBUSTER TEXT RELOAD!

BIGTIME RELOAD



GET 100 FREE TEXTS WHEN YOU RELOAD!

Enjoy 100 FREE texts for every P400 worth of load accumulated within one promo month!

Experience FREE bigtime texting to your friends on Sun and other networks! Go ahead, LOAD MORE and GET MORE!

MECHANICS:

1. Every P400 accumulated load that a subscriber makes within a promo month entitles him to 100 Free Texts, which may be used for both Sun-to-Sun and Sun-to-other-networks texts.
   - For example, P400 accumulated load in March will give you 100 Free Texts and P800 accumulated load in March will give you 200 Free Texts.
2. Promo months are: March 1-31, April 1-30 and May 1-31, 2006. Reloads made within a promo month will not be carried over to the next promo month.
   - Reloads in March cannot be counted in April.
   - Reloads in April cannot be counted in May.
3. Subscribers can accumulate the P400 reload from any combination of Regular Call Cards, Xpress load, 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited, 24/7 Text Unlimited, 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite, Daylite Call and Text Unlimited, IDD Top 10 call cards and Regular e-PINs only.
4. Load purchased via SMS, Convert-a-Load and monthly deposits from SureLoad Subscriptions are disqualified from this promotion.
5. The subscriber will receive a text message with a 14-digit number string not later than 4 days after accumulating P400 reload. The 14-digit number string will expire if not loaded within the defined period. The 100 Free Texts is valid for 30 days from the day it is loaded.
6. The 100 Free Texts is cumulative but not the validity period. The longer validity shall apply.

See posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0953 Series of 2006.

sun CELLULAR PREPAID

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

PC BUYER'S GUIDE
www.pcbuyersguide.com.ph
The No.1 Computer Magazine in the Philippines
2004 National Shoppers' Choice Awards

Peso surges to 51.65 to $1; stocks up 1.6%

Investors see early lifting of state of emergency

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PESO SURGED TO 51.65 to a dollar yesterday from Monday's 51.96 as political tensions eased, boosting expectations that the state of national emergency would be lifted soon.

The local stock market surged as well, with the main price index jumping 33.6 points or 1.6 percent to 2,122.96. This was the Phisix's best close since Feb. 6 when it ended at 2,133.13.

The local currency opened at 51.77 at the Philippine Dealing System and hit an intra-day low of 51.815 and a high of 51.64 against the greenback.

"The market is expecting an end to all the political turmoil," a currency trader said, noting Finance Secretary Gary Teves' pronouncement that the state of emergency could be lifted by Friday.

Volume traded at the spot foreign exchange market amounted to $621.61 million.

"Financial assets clawed back some of their recent losses as President Arroyo appeared to have weathered the latest storm," said ING Bank analyst Tim Condon.

However, Condon said investor appetite for Philippine bonds would depend on how quickly the President could restore normalcy needed for the lifting of the emergency declaration.

Philippine Equity Partners analyst Jojo Gonzales said some investors tended to dismiss the latest political upheaval as "typical of the Philippine political landscape and nothing but noise."

"In our view, if the state of emergency is short-lived, then it should not have a measurable impact on economic activity and thus preserve the gains from the fiscal reform effort, which is the cornerstone of the positive view toward the Philippines," Gonzales said.

But if the state of emergency would become protracted and start to slow economic productivity and revenue collections, Gonzales said it would be a real cause for concern.

"We think that foreign buying, which has been a key support for the market, may dry up until the

PESO/B2

February inflation seen at 7.6-7.9%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S ANNUAL INFLATION LIKELY surged to 7.6-7.9 percent in February from 6.7 percent in January due to the impact of the oil price shock and the 2-percentage-point increase in the value-added tax rate, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

However, the BSP reported that growth in domestic liquidity slowed down for the fifth consecutive month in January to 8.4 percent year-on-year from 9.6 percent in December, indicating muted pressure from the demand side.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the projected rise in inflation for January was due to supply side pressures: the one-off price adjustments following the VAT increase last Feb. 1, higher oil prices in the global market, and moderate increases in food prices.

"The increase in inflation is consistent with the earlier projection of a pick-up in inflation in the first half of the year and deceleration in the second half," Tetangco added.

Domestic liquidity or M3, a key indicator used by the BSP in its monetary management, is an estimate of the entire supply of money in the economy, including money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements. If M3 growth is faster than expected, it becomes a key risk to inflation.

On a month-on-month basis, M3 contracted by about 0.9 percent in January compared to a 2.3-percent growth in December.

Tetangco said strong remittances from overseas Filipino workers continued to pump more liquidity into the system.

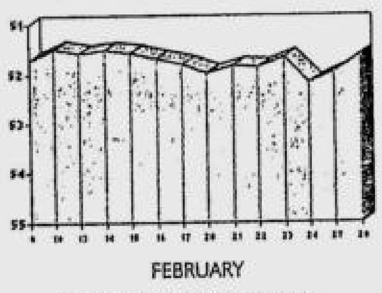
He said the BSP was continuing to monitor the growth of domestic liquidity to ensure that it would remain consistent with the BSP's price stability objective.

"At the same time, the BSP will continue to pursue its efforts to strengthen the banking system in order to ensure that credit activity proceeds at a pace in line with real sector activity," Tetangco said.

The BSP expects inflation for the full year to range between 7.5 and 8.1 percent. Even the 4- to 5-percent inflation target for 2007 is expected to be slightly breached should inflationary risks persist.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.65 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 28, 2006

¥ 116.27 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 28, 2006

GOLD: $556.50-557.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 27, 2006

WHAT'S INSIDE

McKinley revolt /B2
P51B worth of gov't securities swapped /B2
Turmoil threatens RP credit standing, S&P warns /B4

Introducing
Premium LEASE
The easier, more convenient financing solution for top corporate executives.
A new way to a new BMW.
BPI

When your top corporate executives need vehicles, they deserve no less than the best brand of car. They deserve no less than a BMW. Any finance or purchasing officer knows what that means price-wise. That's why there's Premium LEASE, the best financing option that is as elegantly designed as any BMW car.

Main Features of Premium LEASE
- Available for all models of BMW Cars except Z4 and Series 7. Series 7 shall be on a case-to-case basis.
- Off-Books Operating Lease
- 3-Year Lease Term
- 10% Guaranty Deposit, 1 Month Advance Rental
- Up to 40,000 km mileage allowance
- Inclusions – BMW Service and Repair Inclusive Program, Insurance and LTO Registration

BPI LEASING... the LEADER in LEASING

Leasing as a concept has been extremely well-accepted worldwide, particularly in America where it is the financing option of choice specially among corporations and professionals. Leasing is premised on the philosophy that it is more advantageous to use an asset rather than own it. Other than owning, variables like flexibility and cash flow are more important.

In like manner, this new product can best serve the requirements of your company, and serve as an exceptional motivational tool for your top corporate executives. Premium Lease is brought to you by two of the country's best brands.

The BEST of Both Worlds

In the Philippines, one name stands out for its experience, expertise and leadership in the field of leasing—BPI Leasing Corporation. BPI Leasing is the asset–based financing arm of BPI with 30 years of leasing experience. It also enjoys dominant share of the market with more than 35% market share.

BMW on the other hand has long been considered as the best-engineered car in the world. As such, you have BPI with its long tradition of banking leadership, and BMW – which epitomizes sheer driving pleasure. With the Premium Lease brought to you by BPI and BMW, you get the best of both worlds.

Why Premium LEASE is BEST

As a Finance or Purchasing Officer, we understand that you are always on the lookout for solutions that are cost-effective and advantageous to your company's cash flow. That's why Premium Lease was introduced to give you a load of advantages:

Affordability
Enjoy convenient financing terms through its low initial cash outlay and low monthly rentals.

Hassle-Free
This is a full service operating lease wherein your monthly rental includes the costs of the BMW Service and Repair Inclusive Program, insurance and LTO registration.

Tax Efficiency
Input VAT on rentals can be used to reduce your output VAT liability.

Extra Savings
With Premium Lease, you don't have to worry about annual chattel mortgage registration costs.

Reasonable Pre-Termination Charges
If for some reason, you might need to cancel the lease, you can do so, subject to reasonable pre-termination charges.

Transferability
You can transfer the lease to another party during the term subject to prior approval of BPI.

Flexible After-Lease Options
At the end of the lease, you can choose to return your BMW with no other obligation except for repairs and excess mileage if any. You can also extend the lease or better yet buy the car, or trade it in for the latest BMW model.

In summary, leasing has a lower cash outlay bundled with BMW service and insurance benefits and flexible after lease options.

To know more about Premium LEASE, you may call our BPI Leasing Account Officer at 845-5630 and 816-9261 or any BMW authorized dealer.

BPI Leasing Corporation
A wholly-owned subsidiary of the
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

McKinley revolt

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

WHILE THE ZOBEL DE AYALAS were being distracted by the anti-GMA agitation of their Hyatt 10 colleagues, the billionaire landlords of Makati were themselves being quietly subverted right in their own backyard.

Unknown to the Ayalas, who developed Forbes and Dasmariñas villages, about two dozen homeowners of McKinley Road have managed to have the Ayala-imposed deed of restrictions on their respective land titles lifted by the Makati Regional Trial Court, according to a McKinley homeowner.

McKinley, for the information of the peasants and *promdis*, is the acacia-lined street linking the intersection of Ayala and Edsa to The Fort.

The Ayalas, through the two homeowners' associations, have initially won a court battle against the McKinley group to extend the deed of restrictions—for 25 more years, if we remember correctly—thus keeping the residential character of the two exclusive subdivisions.

It is not immediately clear what the court's basis was for the lifting of the McKinley restrictions, but apparently the court recognized that the character of the once sleepy street had changed since five decades ago when Forbes and Dasma were carved out of cogonal wasteland.

The McKinley homeowner refused to discuss the details of his court victory, for fear of tipping off the Ayalas about similar judicial relief being sought by the rest of the 54 property owners lining the now busy artery.

According to the grapevine, Marcos son-in-law Greggy Araneta and Liberty Telecoms chair Raymond Moreno were the very first McKinley homeowners to have won the favorable court ruling, with the rest quietly and individually initiating their respective judicial actions, citing the Araneta and Moreno precedent-setting cases.

What apparently made the Makati RTC victories easy was that the cases had gone unchallenged by the Ayalas and even the Forbes and Dasma homeowners' association which most likely had been unaware of such judicial proceedings.

With the lifting of the restrictions, up to five-story structures, instead of single- and two-level homes, can now be built along the McKinley corridor, paving the transformation of the entire strip into a Rodeo Drive-type of neighborhood like what Araneta and Moreno had been advocating.

The current price of real estate in McKinley is about P40,000 a square meter. Should the planned redevelopment push through and the large residential lots lining the road be broken into smaller chunks, the price could double overnight, easily.

Money-go-round

- PRESIDENTIAL *balae* and self-made man Herman Montenegro plans a Philippine and Singapore listing for his activated carbon venture, especially after his company, Pacific Activated Carbon, obtained a long-term supply contract from a major cigarette conglomerate.
- After announcing record profits for the PLDT-Smart-Piltel Group, president Napoleon Nazareno left Monday night for an elite geek conference in Seattle, where one of the featured guests would be—how did you guess?—gazzilionaire geek Bill Gates.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. is being pressured through a threatened congressional investigation to extend a whopping P3 billion financial assistance to an ailing, but politically well-connected savings bank.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

₱51B worth of gov't securities swapped

Stretching maturity of debts

By Michelle V. Remo

INVESTORS HAVE SWAPPED P51 billion worth of old five and seven-year bonds for new Treasury bonds under the government's Debt Consolidation Program.

The Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) yesterday announced that investors traded in P34 billion worth of five-year bonds, and P17 billion worth of seven-year bonds.

The BTr said total tenders hit P54 billion—P34 billion in five-year bonds and P20 billion in seven-year bonds—but only P51 billion worth of bonds were accepted, exceeding the minimum of P45 billion set for swap by the government.

"The objectives of the exchange has been achieved. The success of this exchange shows how the government and the private sector can work together to develop our capital markets," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a statement.

The government's debt consolidation program calls for investors holding government securities to exchange their debt paper for new bonds that will mature at a later date.

The program was crafted to enable the government to better manage its domestic debt by stretching the average maturity of its obligations by at least a year from the average 4.7 years.

An investor holding an old five-year bond, for instance, that was supposed to mature in a few months was invited to swap it for a new five-year bond that will mature in 2011.

The program also covered the swap of old government securities for new three-year bonds.

Aside from stretching the maturity of government debts, the program is likewise seen to boost activity in the domestic capital market.

Omar Cruz explained earlier that having longer-tenor bonds would make available a substantial volume of three, five and seven-year government securities maturing at the same time.

These are securities that foreign investors deem attractive, compared to bonds with different maturity dates.

"We are extremely happy with the support that has been shown by investors, especially the private sector institutions, who continued to hold fast to the fundamentals of the markets and were not distracted by temporary negative sentiment," said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

BDO profit up

BANCO DE Oro Universal Bank, taipan Henry Sy's banking arm, reported a 29 percent growth in profit to P2.54 billion in 2005 from year ago level.

This was attributed to strong interest and fee-based earnings.

Citing unaudited results last year, BDO said its net interest income had improved by 32 percent to P6.56 billion from P4.96 billion in 2004 as loan portfolio and interest margins increased.

Non-interest income was also up by 59 percent to P3.94 billion.

Doris C. Dumlao

Study in Singapore
JCU
MR. SIMON PHILLIPS, Intl. Admissions Manager for JCU Singapore, will be interviewing prospective students on:
Friday, March 3, 2006
9:00 am—5.00 pm
Students interested should call the Inter-Ed office to set an appointment

Bachelors Degree
•Business (Marketing, International Business, Management)
• InfoTech
• Psychology
• Tourism Management

Masters Degree
•Information Technology (e-business, networking)
•Psychology • MBA

Singapore is ideal for safety, clean environment, reduced tuition fees & living costs, & close proximity to the Philippines

International Education Specialists
2/F, Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227
TEL :819-1001, 819-1002

PROTECT YOUR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENTS AGAINST VOLTAGE FLUCTUATIONS AND SURGES!
MITSUI™
TRUE AND SAFE
AUTOMATIC VOLTAGE REGULATORS
•TRUE CAPACITY RATING
•SAVE 50% IN COST COMPARED TO OTHER BRANDS FOR THE SAME APPLICATION
•WIDE INPUT VOLTAGE RANGE AND, FAST RESPONSE TO VOLTAGE FLUCTUATION
•DESIGNED BASED ON INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION AND PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD ON SAFETY
YOUR SAFETY IS OUR MISSION.
AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING COMPUTER AND ELECTRICAL SHOPS NATIONWIDE
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 735-9257/734-2691

THE FARM AT SAN BENITO
Hippocrates Health Resort of Asia

Dear Valued Guests,

This is to inform you that effective today, March 01, 2006, Manila Sales Office of THE FARM AT SAN BENITO will be located at Shop 10 & 11, Ground Floor, The Peninsula Manila, Corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues, 1226 Makati City.

For inquiries and reservations, you may reach us at:

Telephone numbers : (632) 751-3498.889-0138.844-9530
812-3456 local 2711
Fax number : (632)751-3497
Email : info@thefarm.com.ph
Website : www.thefarm.com.ph

Thank you very much and we are looking forward to welcome you at THE FARM AT SAN BENITO.

The Management and Staff

ROUND-UP

ABS-CBN reorganization

TELEVISION GIANT ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORP. YESTERDAY BARED more changes in its organization to boost its financial performance.

In a statement, ABS-CBN said its chair Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III would assume the company's presidency following the resignation of Luis Alejandro, who resigned to rejoin his former company NutriAsia Inc.

Rosario Santos-Concio, currently executive vice-president (EVP) for the entertainment group, will be EVP and head of Channel 2.

Santos will be responsible for total channel programming, on-air operations, and overall revenue and profit delivery of Channel 2, the flagship channel of ABS-CBN.

Antonio Ventosa, managing director of Hemisphere Leo Burnett Advertising, will join the network as head of marketing, bringing with him 20 years of experience in the communications and marketing industry.

Agustin Benitez, the associated managing director of rival ABC-5, was named head of Channel 2's customer development unit.

Benitez is a seasoned media practitioner for 20 years and has occupied media directorships in advertising agencies like Saatchi & Saatchi and Hemisphere Leo Burnett.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Deferment of IPO requirement sought

THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (Pippa) is seeking the deferment of the public offering requirement on generation companies, which is supposed to take place this year.

In a letter addressed to Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Rodolfo Albano Jr., the organization said that while it was "committed to support the public offering provision of RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), this was not the right time for such an exercise."

"Pippa believes that the implementation of this provision should be made under an environment that is conducive to the success of any public offering, and after relevant issues with regard to the public offering are resolved," it said.

The group said that while the offering of at least 15 percent of a generation firm's common stock was mentioned in the Epira, "the provision is not a directive to the generation companies to offer or sell to the public a portion of its common stock.

The ERC, as mandated by the Epira, had already issued a resolution on Aug. 17, 2005 reiterating the public offering provision of the Epira.

Abigail L. Ho

Constitutional amendments pushed

THE OLDEST BUSINESS ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY YESTERDAY announced its full support to a more liberal policies on foreigners' corporate ownership and property rights through proposed amendments to the Constitution.

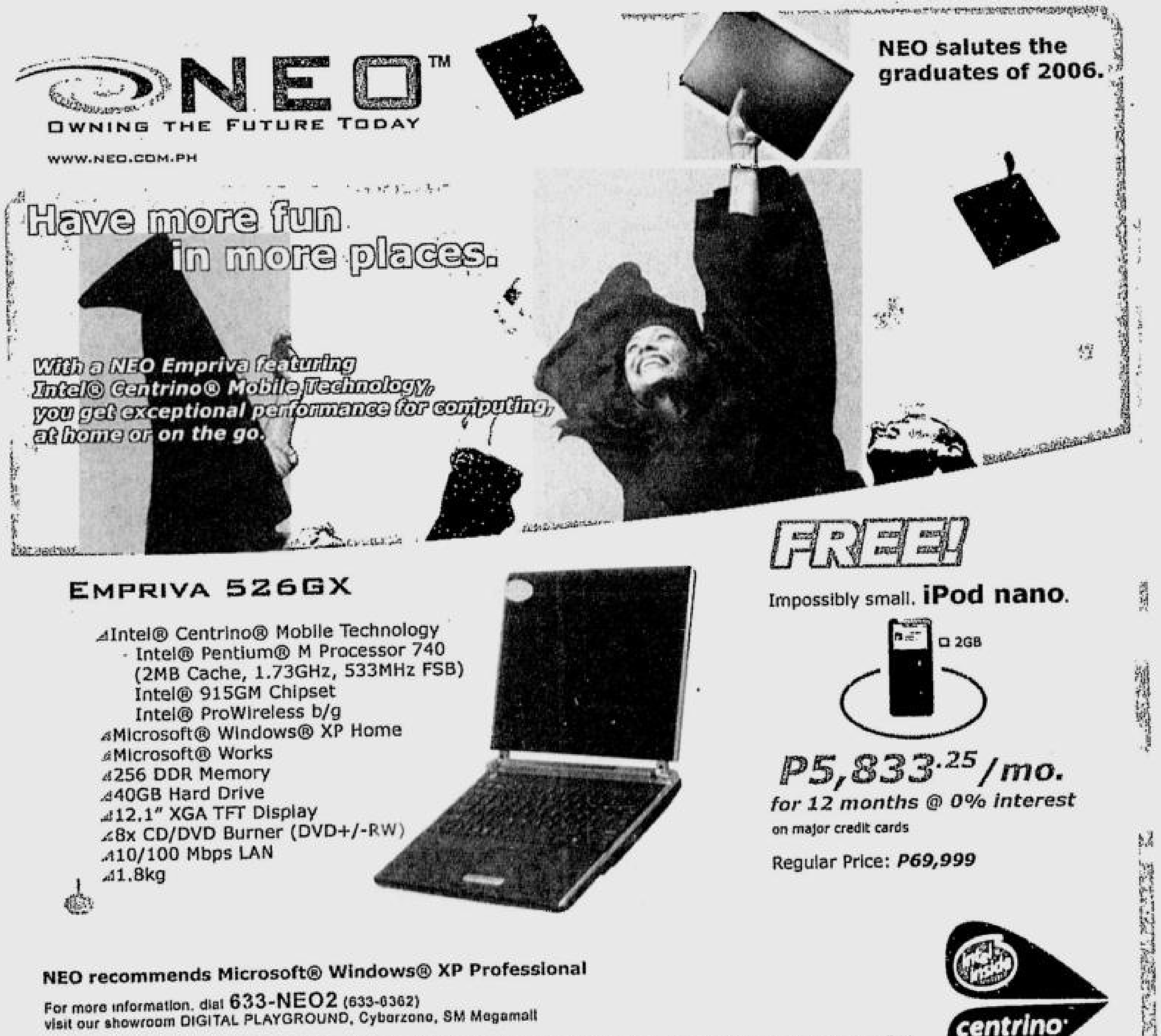
Jose Luis Romero-Salas, president of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce or La Camara, said the group strongly backed draft amendments that set no limit to foreign participation in economic activities in the country.

Romero-Salas said La Camara had urged the Consultative Commission to spell out in their drafts definitive provisions on the individual rights of foreigners living in the Philippines.

Romero-Salas said La Camara was particularly pushing for a proposed change in the basic law that provides "lands classified in accordance with the law as industrial commercial or residential may be transferred or conveyed to foreign individuals or corporations with foreign ownership."

At present, the Constitution bars foreigners from owning land.

Ronnel W. Domingo


NEO™
OWNING THE FUTURE TODAY
WWW.NEO.COM.PH
NEO salutes the graduates of 2006.
Have more fun in more places.
With a NEO Empriva featuring Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology, you get exceptional performance for computing, at home or on the go.

EMPRIVA 526GX
- Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740 (2MB Cache, 1.73GHz, 533MHz FSB)
  - Intel® 915GM Chipset
  - Intel® ProWireless b/g
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- Microsoft® Works
- 256 DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Drive
- 12.1" XGA TFT Display
- 8x CD/DVD Burner (DVD+/-RW)
- 10/100 Mbps LAN
- 1.8kg

FREE!
Impossibly small. iPod nano.
2GB
P5,833.25/mo.
for 12 months @ 0% interest
on major credit cards
Regular Price: P69,999

centrino
MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

NEO recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
For more information, dial 633-NEO2 (633-0362)
visit our showroom DIGITAL PLAYGROUND, Cyberzone, SM Megamall

Promo period is from Feb. 11 - Mar. 30, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit #0635. Series of 2006. See flyers for more details.

[redacted]

Peso surges to 51.65 to $1; stocks up 1.6%

From page B1

state of emergency is lifted," he said.

He noted that foreigners were net sellers of some P101 million worth of stocks on Monday after political tensions escalated during the weekend.

But analysts said yesterday's extended gains indicated that investors were betting that President Arroyo would recall an emergency rule imposed last week.

They added that many investors may have dismissed rumors of a coup plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration and were focusing on corporate profits instead.

Total peso trades reached P2 billion with gainers overpowering losers, 78 to 13. Of total transactions, net foreign buying amounted to P245 million.

"The market is pricing in the resolution of placing the country under a state of emergency. Investors are expecting political issues to be resolved without much damage to the economy and corporate profits," an analyst of a local brokerage firm said.

Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at fund manager ING Investment Management, said the relief rally yesterday was a result of investors shifting their attention to corporate earnings as a possible catalyst.

Among yesterday's active stocks included holding firm SM Investments Corp., which rose 1.8 percent to P225. Bank of the Philippine Islands closed 50 centavos higher at P59.

'05 output hits 5-year high

Neda sees rise in demand for manufactured goods

By Michelle V. Remo

THE OUTPUT OF THE MANUFACTURING sector, as measured by volume of production index (VoPI), grew 2.1 percent in 2005 from only one percent the previous year, reflecting an anticipated increase in demand for manufactured goods.

The National Economic and Development Authority noted that last year's VoPI was the best in five years.

The increase in the volume of production was consistent with the relatively high capacity utilization of 80.1 percent last year. Capacity utilization rate measures how much manu-

'05 OUTPUT/ B4

AMERICAN AUCTION !
Call 638-3333 Now!
5th Floor, SM Megamall, Ortigas Center

FOR NEGOTIATED SALE !
MUST BE SOLD IN 12 DAYS !!!
3-floor Restaurant @ Heart of MALATE !
Orig Price : P 12,000,000
Sale Price : P 4,600,000
Size: 578 sqm + 11 park slots
over 60% off !!
Concept: European Fine Dining Restaurant themed with large sofa chairs serving Chinese Food.
Clientele: PAGCOR, Tourists (busloads from Travel Agencies), Pan Pacific Hotel guests, Big Chinoy (Binondo) clientele, Land Bank,etc
Remarks: Almost turnkey operation. Seller's key people can train your people or be rehired. System & clientele introduced to new buyer, 2 BIG + 1 small Kitchens!

FOR AUCTION !
2 Restaurant + Unused Equip from Resto Factory
WHAT: Japanese, Fastfood & Factory made kitch equip
WHEN: Friday, Mar 3. Registration fr 9am. View: Mar 1&2 ,9-5pm
WHERE: 2nd floor, 187 E.Rodriguez Jr Ave.,LIBIS, above PSbank across BMW, nr Eastwood City. This is our Libis Auction Center !

Selling your Restaurant? We find ways to get BEST PRICES! We invite thousands of resto owners, etc to buy your restaurant or equipment. FREE consultation! Fully airconned Libis Auction Center now accepting items for you to sell. **Call 638-3388 / 638-8883 NOW!**

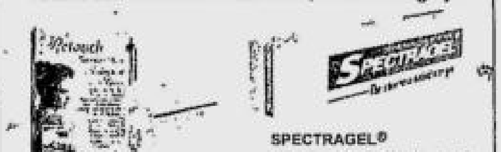
A HEART ATTACK IS FATAL
BE READY IF IT STRIKES!

OXYLITE PORTABLE OXYGEN
- Handy and Portable
- Ideal for travel
- Imported from U.S.A.

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor (45) 636-3513
SM MANILA 5th Floor 464-1471
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-0436
SM SOUTHMALL Basement [illegible] 1565
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
CEBU 417-8286
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418 7540
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635 5061

Keep a scar from becoming history

RETOUCH® Silicone Scar Reduction Sheets and SPECTRAGEL® Sheetless Keloid Scar Gel greatly reduce scar formations from burns, cuts and surgery.



RETOUCH®
- Conforms and sticks to any part of the body
- Effective on old as well as new hypertrophic or keloid scars

SPECTRAGEL®
- An elastomer gel indicated for safe and effective management of both old and new hypertrophic or keloid scars
- Instantly bonds to scar area

Effective management of keloid scars.
Consult your doctor for more details.

Quantum Care Medical Products
"Your medical and rehab assistive device company"
81-2A Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City • Tels 551-6661, 834-2927 • Fax 834-2943
Email: quantum@pworld.net.ph • www.quantumcaremedical.com

Spectragel® and Retouch® are available in Metro Manila at Quantum Care Medical Products. Provincial outlets: RehabMedics (032-2544137), Cebu Orthopedic Institute (032-2543835), Livestream (034-4352878), San Pedro Hospital PT & Rehab

PAIN?
we Medicus Can HELP.

Our holistic therapies includes....

(Body Massage)

Acupuncture Acupressure Chinese Foot Therapy Chinese Body Therapy

Also best for the following conditions.......

Arthritis	Bell's Palsy	Neck & Shoulder Pain Stress
Sciatica	Myofascial Pain	Impotence / Infertility
Migraine	Low Back Pain	Pre - Menstrual Syndrome
Insomnia	Tennis E lbow	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
Stiff Neck	Colds & Flu	Anxiety
Headache	Dysmenorrhea	Post Stroke Rehabilitation Bronchitis
Eczema	Fibromyalgia	Chemotherapy Nausea & Vomiting
Asthma	Depression	

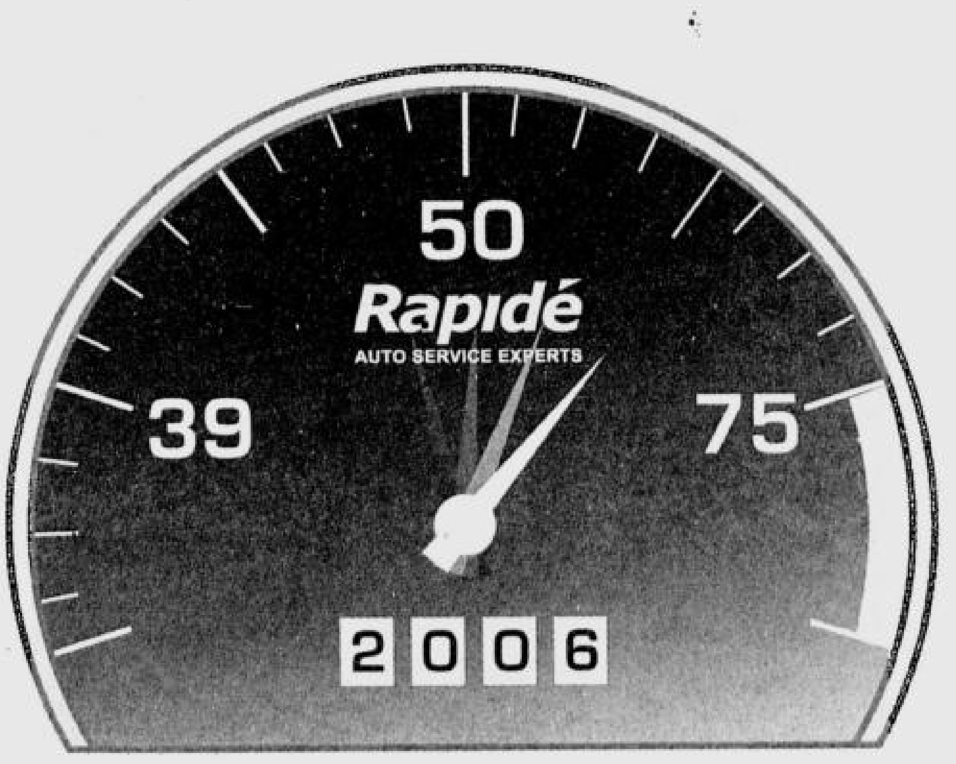
Source: World Health Organization – Consensus Conference (1971)

Caring is Our Number One Priority : GET WELL in COMFORT

Contact or visit us at

118 Jupiter St., BelAir Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 897-38-10 / 897-38-40 / 890-08-21
Clinic Hours: 10 am – 7 pm ; Monday - Saturday
Free Parking

We accelerate our expansion from 50 Service Centers onwards.



With our expansion rate, no other service center comes close... to you.

With more branches added, we make it more accessible for you to avail of Rapidé's unique value services such as our Free Safety Inspection, our Lifetime Brake Warranty and the longest warraties in selected services.

Rapidé AUTO SERVICE EXPERTS

ALABANG 809-6153 •ANTIPOLO 630-8080 •BAGUIO (074) 304-3862 •BF (PRESIDENT'S AVE.) 825-3943 •BICUTAN 824-0020 •BIÑAN (049) 411-7155 •BONI-MANDALUYONG 747-4274 •BUENDIA 844-7415 •CALAMBA 420-8247 •COMMONWEALTH 436-7650 •DAU (045) 331-5151 •DAGUPAN (075) 523-1680 •ESTRELLA 889-1984 •GREENHILLS 726-9744 •IMUS 529-8982 •KALAYAAN 426-4042 •LIPA 520-8240 •MAGALLANES 853-1840 •MARKET MARKET 889-7466 •MERALCO 631-9509 •NOVALICHES •PACITA 868-8708 •PARKSQUARE 894-4884 •PASONG TAMO 843-3883 •PETRON-DASMARIÑAS 886-4350 •PETRON-FILINVEST 771-1483 •QUEZON AVENUE 732-9825 •RIVERBANKS 475-4841 •SAN PABLO CITY 520-6054 •SHAW CENTER 532-6665 •SHAW PASIG 747-8881 •STA. ROSA (049) 838-1295 •STA. ROSA TECHNOPARK (049) 541-1808 •SUCAT 820-6043 •TAYTAY 658-4560 •TIMOG 926-8342 •TUGUEGARAO (078) 844-8001 •VALENZUELA 291-8108 •ZOBEL ROXAS 757-5700

SOON-TO-OPEN: • BINONDO • LAS PIÑAS • SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA • SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION • MAKATI AVENUE • QUIRINO AVENUE • NAIA ROAD • PASIG • ORTIGAS AVENUE • BATANGAS • MARIKINA

Hotline: 895-9486 • 890-3913 Cel: 0917-8589522 Email: contactus@rapide.com.ph

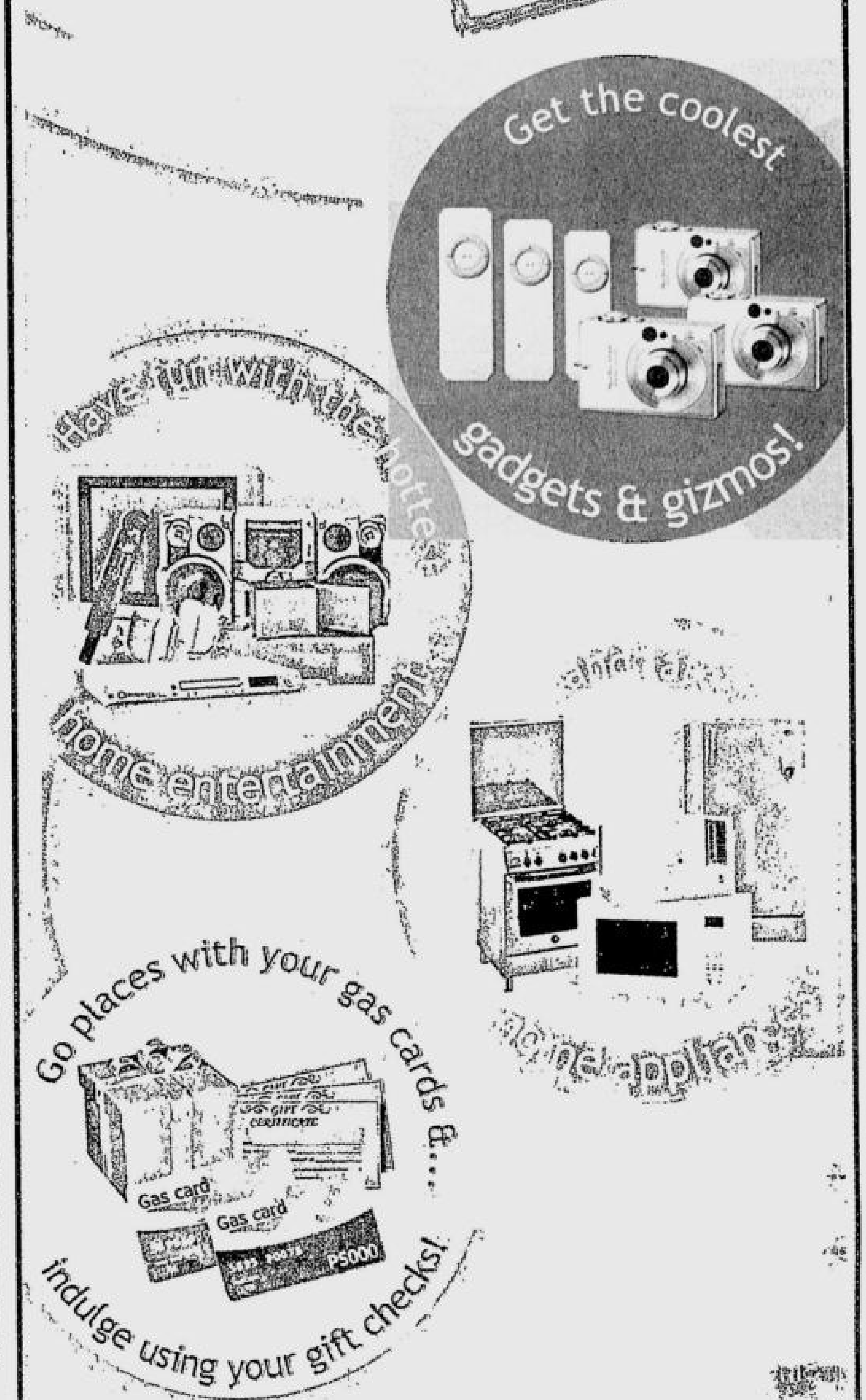
OPEN FOR FRANCHISING

OIL CHANGE - P770
(Gasoline Engine) Save P120
Includes free safety inspection and tire rotation. For passenger vehicles only. Present coupon to avail of the offer. Valid in any Rapide Branch until March 31, 2006.
Rapidé AUTO SERVICE EXPERTS

OIL CHANGE - P1,285
(Diesel Engine) Save P205
Includes free safety inspection and tire rotation. For passenger vehicles only. Present coupon to avail of the offer. Valid in any Rapide Branch until March 31, 2006.
Rapidé AUTO SERVICE EXPERTS

10% Off
on all core services
(excluding tires & batteries.)
Present this coupon to avail of the offer. Valid in any Rapide branches until March 31, 2006.
Rapidé AUTO SERVICE EXPERTS

PBCOM EARNER AddVANTAGE PROMO
PART II


Get the coolest gadgets & gizmos!
Have fun with the hottest home entertainment
home appliances
Go places with your gas cards &... indulge using your gift checks!
GIFT CERTIFICATE
Gas card
Gas card
P5000

It's so easy to join!
- Simply open a PBCom FlexiEarner or PBCom SureEarner Account.
- Earn one (1) point for every P50,000 deposit.
- A minimum of six (6) accumulated points entitles you to one (1) instant reward.
- The more you deposit, the more points you earn, the greater rewards you can get!
- See promo brochures for details.

Enjoy a host of exciting rewards while your money earns maximum yields.

Pioneer DVD Player
Kolin 14" Color TV
Sharp Karaoke
iPod Shuffle
Pioneer DVD with Karaoke
LG Personal Refrigerator
Whirlpool Microwave Oven
Samsung 17" Flat Screen TV
Panasonic Water Heater
Magic Sing Karaoke Microphone
La Germania Gas Range/Oven
Whirlpool Washing Machine
Sony Micro Component
Sony 21" Flat Screen TV
Condura Air Conditioner
LG 7 cu. ft. Refrigerator
LG Air Conditioner
Sony Digital Camera
Panasonic 8 cu. ft. Refrigerator
Carrier Air Conditioner
Pioneer Home Theater System
LG Component
Gift Certificates
Caltex Gas Card*

*for Metro Manila and selected provinces

Hurry! Call or visit your nearest PBCom branch NOW.
Promo runs from February 15 to March 31, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0310, Series of 2006

PBCOM
Philippine Bank of Communications

PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., 1226 Makati City
Trunk Line: 830-7000 • Email: info@pbcom.com.ph • www.pbcom.com.ph
Member: PDIC
Deposits insured up to P250,000

Turmoil threatens RP credit standing, S&P warns

By Doris C. Dumlao

GLOBAL RATING FIRM STANDARD & POOR'S yesterday warned that a long drawn-out political turmoil in the Philippines could pull down its sovereign credit rating.

For now, the rating firm based in the United States is keeping a "stable" outlook on the country's sovereign credit.

"Should the current political crisis worsen and become protracted, the risks are that both policy and economic reforms could be delayed," S&P said in a statement from New York. "Any signs that political considerations could overshadow ongoing fiscal consolidation efforts will have negative credit implications.

"The resulting loss of investors' confidence and demand for a higher risk premium would also expose the country's external vulnerability, given that almost one-half of its debt is foreign currency denominated."

Last Feb. 9, S&P upgraded its outlook on Philippine debt ratings to "stable" from "negative," citing the country's ability to stick to its fiscal reform measures, which are needed to reduce its public and external debts while acknowledging the political risks that persist.

A "negative" outlook means that the sovereign credit could be downgraded over the near term.

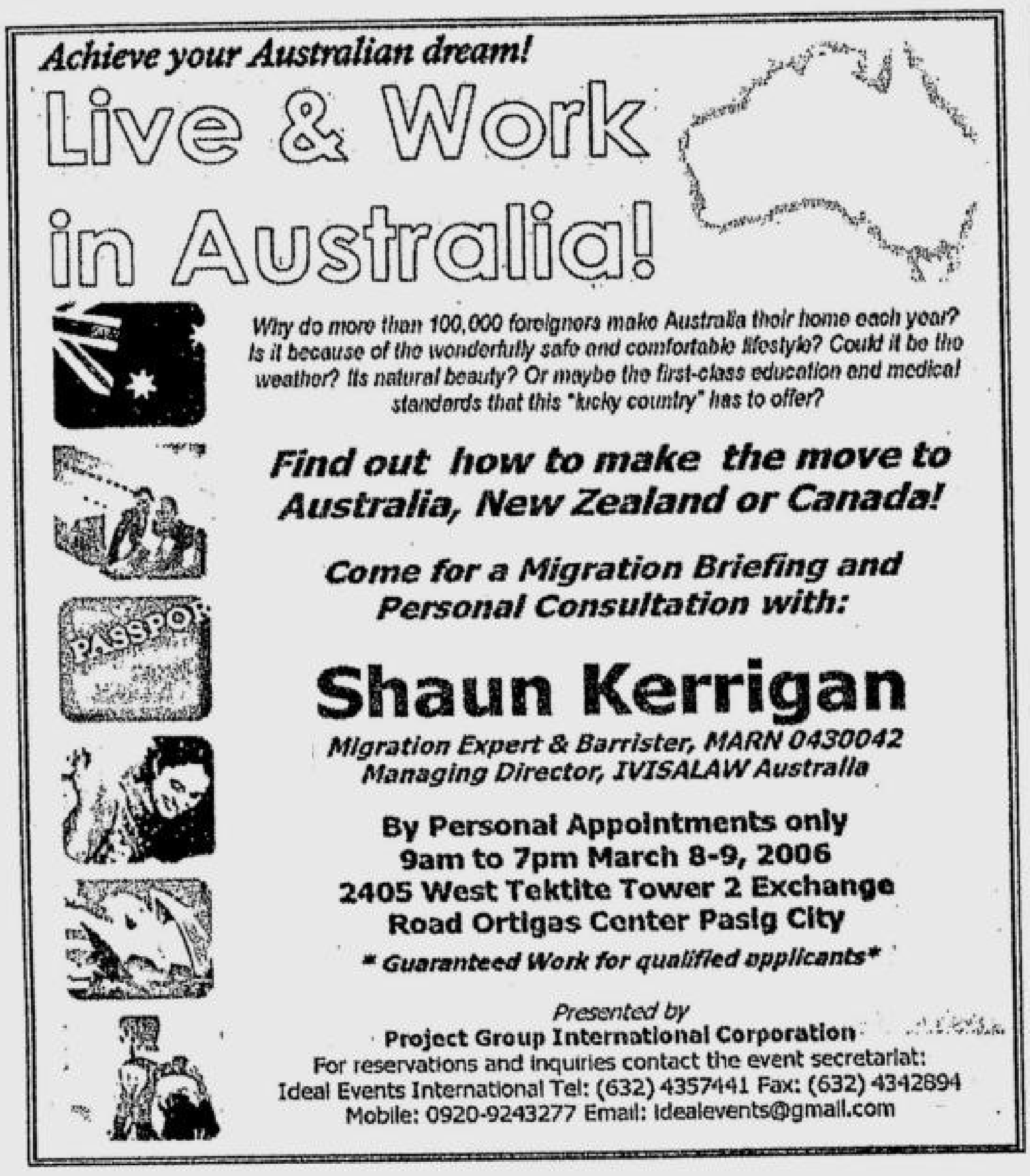
S&P's current rating on long-term foreign currency debt was at BB-, or three notches below investment grade.

The rating agency said the present rating would remain despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to declare a state of emergency.

Market analysts said investors would remain jittery until the state of national emergency was lifted.

US investment banking giant JP Morgan recently warned that the declaration could rekindle martial law traumas and boost the stock of the political opposition.

"A state of emergency, especially if it restricts severely the liberties of the population, could raise the specter of the Marcos years in the 1970s," JP Morgan analyst Sin Beng Ong said. "This is one event that could coalesce the opposition, which had hitherto been quite disparate."


Achieve your Australian dream!
Live & Work in Australia!

Why do more than 100,000 foreigners make Australia their home each year? Is it because of the wonderfully safe and comfortable lifestyle? Could it be the weather? Its natural beauty? Or maybe the first-class education and medical standards that this "lucky country" has to offer?

Find out how to make the move to Australia, New Zealand or Canada!

Come for a Migration Briefing and Personal Consultation with:

Shaun Kerrigan
Migration Expert & Barrister, MARN 0430042
Managing Director, IVISALAW Australia

By Personal Appointments only
9am to 7pm March 8-9, 2006
2405 West Tektite Tower 2 Exchange
Road Ortigas Center Pasig City
* Guaranteed Work for qualified applicants*

Presented by
Project Group International Corporation
For reservations and inquiries contact the event secretariat:
Ideal Events International Tel: (632) 4357441 Fax: (632) 4342894
Mobile: 0920-9243277 Email: idealevents@gmail.com

Globe, Japan firm tie up for unlimited calls

By Daxim L. Lucas

JAPAN-BASED FILIPINOS MAY SOON make unlimited voice calls to the cellular phone network of Globe Telecom Inc. after an agreement was inked between the telecommunications firm and a Japanese service provider.

Globe's partner for the scheme is Frontier Association International Corp. (FAI), a start-up firm based in Nagoya, Japan, which plans to enter the telecommunications and information technology business.

The tie-up with Globe is FAI Corp.'s first business venture.

Under the scheme, FAI will offer its Frontier Call service in Japan, allowing Filipinos there to make unlimited voice calls to their families and friends in the Philippines at a low fixed monthly rate.

"The service will primarily benefit the thousands of Filipino workers in Japan who want to keep in touch with their loved ones but have to limit their international calls due to the prohibitive cost of existing services," the company said in a statement. "With Frontier Call, these Filipinos can be in close contact with their loved ones without fear of running up a high telephone bill."

Frontier Call is, however, a one-way calling service. It cannot handle calls from the Philippines to Japan.

Under the scheme, subscribers can choose from five plans, which will allow them to call between one and five Globe or Touch Mobile numbers in the Philippines from Japan.

The plans are priced at 7,800 yen, or about P2,500, a month for the light plan (unlimited calls to one number); 9,800 yen, or P3,750, for the basic plan (two numbers); 11,800 yen, or P4,375, for the deluxe plan (three numbers); 13,300 yen, or P4,900, for deluxe plan plus one (four lines); and, 14,800 yen, or P5,400, for deluxe plan plus two (five lines).

FAI Corp. president Yoichiro Miyake said that his company hopes to capture a significant portion of the communications needs of an estimated 300,000 Filipinos working in Japan.

He said the firm has so far set aside 100 million yen to fund the company's infrastructure needs in the Philippines and Japan.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF KEPPEL PHILIPPINES MARINE, INC.

All holders of shares of common stock of Keppel Philippines Marine, Inc. (respectively, the "Shareholders" and "KPM") are hereby notified that on 27 February 2006, KS Investments Pte. Ltd. ("the Bidder") filed a Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. The Bidder, which is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of Singapore, intends to acquire 70.529% or 1,406,665,058 common shares of KPM.

The Tender Offer shall commence at 10:00 a.m. on 1 March 2006, and end at 4:00 p.m. on 28 March 2006 (the "Tender Offer Period"). Common shares of KPM to be tendered (the "Subject Shares"), if any, are intended to be crossed on the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") on 6 April 2006 (the "Cross Date") subject to PSE approval. Should any of the business days during the period from 1 March 2006, the commencement of the Tender Offer Period and 6 April 2006, the Cross Date, inclusive, be officially declared a non-working holiday after the filing of the Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) on 27 February 2006, the period shall be extended by the number of business days corresponding to those which were declared as non-working holidays.

The purchase price for the acquisition of the Subject Shares is Php 1.00 for each share (the "Tender Offer Price"). Payments shall be in Philippine Pesos and in the form of manager's checks drawn against ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Paying Agent"). ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners, Inc., the Financial Adviser to the Bidder, has certified that the Bidder has sufficient resources, including cash, to satisfy full acceptance of the Tender Offer. The Bidder has allocated Php1,406,665,058 in cash for this purpose. The Bidder intends to pay the tendered and accepted Subject Shares on the 10th trading day after the close of the Tender Offer Period. Payments for the tendered and accepted Subject Shares shall be made available by the Paying Agent for pick up by the tendering Shareholders after 9:00 a.m. on 11 April 2006 assuming the shares are crossed on the Cross Date.

Every Shareholder of KPM who holds stock certificates ("Scrip Shareholders") should submit within the Tender Offer Period their duly endorsed stock certificates and the duly accomplished Application together with the following requirements to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Depository"), 17th Floor, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (63-2) 849-8888 (Contact Person: Nilaida S. Enriquez):

If you are a CORPORATE SHAREHOLDER,
please submit the following:

1. Certified true copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the shareholder and latest amendment/s thereof.
2. A notarized Secretary's Certificate substantially in the form prescribed by the Bidder setting forth resolutions of the tendering shareholder's Board of Directors authorizing the tender and sale of the Company's Subject Shares and designating the signatories for the purpose.
3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of its authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary and verified by its broker (the name of the broker and the broker's signatory must be specified) or officer of the bank (the name of the bank and the bank's officer must be specified) where it is maintaining an account.

If you are an INDIVIDUAL SHAREHOLDER,
please submit the following:

1. Two (2) valid identification cards containing the photo and specimen signature of the shareholder.
2. For shareholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney substantially in the form prescribed by the Bidder (*N.B.* Endorsement of stock certificate/s must be made by the shareholder himself).
3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the shareholder and verified by his broker (the name of the broker and the broker's signatory must be specified) or officer of the bank (the name of the bank and the bank's officer must be specified) where he is maintaining an account.

For the convenience of Scrip Shareholders based in Visayas and Mindanao, the Subject Shares may be tendered by submitting the foregoing requirements at the Cebu and Davao branch offices of the Depository no later than 21 March 2006.

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (Cebu Branch)
Room 206, Cebu Holdings Center
Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Telephone No.: (63)(32) 231-1324
Contact Person: Cheryl M. Lim-Go

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (Davao Branch)
Dr. #7 M.T. Aquino Building, Cabaguio Avenue
corner Bolcan Street, Davao City
Telephone No.: (63)(82) 224-2860
Contact Person: Miguel Luis R. Aquino

After said dates, Scrip Shareholders in Visayas and Mindanao may tender their respective Subject Shares only with the Depository's head office in Makati City.

The Depository will submit the share certificates for validation to KPM's Stock Transfer Agent, Securities Transfer Services, Inc., c/o Mr. Antonio R. Galvez, 4th floor Benpres Building, Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, tel. (632) 449-6155 or (632) 449-6168. Defective applications (*e.g.*, with discrepancy between the specimen signatures on file and the endorsement) must be corrected within the Tender Offer Period to avoid being rejected by the Bidder. Hence, Shareholders are strongly urged against tendering at the last minute to allow sufficient time to correct any deficiency in their application. Shareholders are also urged to indicate their telephone numbers in their respective application forms to allow the Depository to inform them immediately of any deficiency in their applications.

Tendering Shareholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") ("Scripless Shareholders") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their shares to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Broker") for receipt by the Broker prior to 4:00 p.m. of March 28, 2006. The Broker shall hold the tendered common shares only as custodian for said shares. Tendering Shareholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered shares at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Depository (for Scrip Shareholders) or by the Broker (for Scripless Shareholders) before 4:00 p.m. of March 28, 2006.

Copies of SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by Shareholders from the Depository/Broker at their addresses stated above. For inquiries about the Bidder or the Tender Offer, please contact Ms. Nilaida Enriquez of the Depository at its address set forth earlier in this letter.

(PDI–March 1, 2 & 3, 2006)

'05 output ...

From page B3

facturing firms maximize the production capabilities of their factories.

"A capacity utilization of over 80 percent is good," said Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning of the National Economic and Development Authority. "It showed that manufacturing firms expected an increase in demand."

In 2004, capacity utilization rate was only pegged at 79.3 percent, Arroyo added.

The Neda said the following subsectors were the major contributors to growth in VoPi last year: food, which grew 34.7 percent; fabricated metal products, 138.7 percent, chemical products, 4.8 percent; and paper, 3.4 percent.

Arroyo said the higher production volume of manufacturing firms last year boosted growth of the entire sector, reaching 5.3 percent in 2005 from 5.2 percent the previous year. The other two major sectors—agriculture and services—posted decelerated growth last year.

Quoting figures from the National Statistics Office, an attached agency of the Neda, Arroyo reported that the value of production index (VaPI), which measures manufacturing output in peso terms, improved to 13 percent last year from 8.7 percent a year ago.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 28, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33.5	34	33.5	34	374,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59.5	58	59	6,101,800
China Banking Corp.	665	665	635	665	4,150
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.5	10,950,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	63.5	64.5	63.5	64.5	208,730
International Exch. Bank	23.75	24.25	23.75	24.25	71,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	35	33	35	1,550,500
Philippine National Bank	30.5	31	30.5	31	14,300
Security Bank Corp.	38	38	37	37.5	15,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	3,300
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.84	0.8	0.84	90,000
First Abacus Financial	0.52	0.65	0.52	0.65	130,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3260	3260	3260	3260	520
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	147	149	147	149	510
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2210	2215	2200	2215	1,890
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.82	0.78	0.81	14,080,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	45	44.5	45	4,159,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	40	42	39.5	41.5	1,626,600
Manila Electric Co. A	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	132,800
Manila Electric Co. B	18.5	19	18.5	18.5	736,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	1,426,000
Petron Corp.	4.55	4.65	4.55	4.55	4,436,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	19.5	19.75	19.5	19.75	39,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	37	35	36	749,300
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.7	1.6	1.7	731,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61.5	62	61	62	121,600
San Miguel Corp. B	62	63	61.5	63	228,500
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18.25	18	18.25	614,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	700,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	930,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.24	1.3	6,566,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	839,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	1,300,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.31	0.36	0.31	0.35	3,080,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0085	0.0075	0.0085	52,000,000
Ayala Corp.	320	327.5	317.5	325	214,280
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	5	4.85	4.85	400,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	6,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.3	2.32	2.3	2.32	217,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	200,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.89	1,950,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	2	2	2	2	3,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	24,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.98	0.93	0.98	9,440,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.1	963,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.7	1.84	1.7	1.82	2,985,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	9,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.65	4.65	580,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	7,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	7,770,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	380,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	227	219	225	1,856,960
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	700,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.125	2,120,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11.25	6,584,300
Belle Corp.	0.95	0.99	0.95	0.99	4,160,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	20,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.72	1.6	1.72	3,599,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.66	1.76	1.66	1.76	305,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	80,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	100,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	510,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	3,760,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.22	10,779,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	20,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	5,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	2,470,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	930,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.36	10,015,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	12,500,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.31	0.25	0.3	10,460,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	22,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	13,430,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.5	1.36	1.5	386,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8.1	7.9	8	9,881,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.13	2,120,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11	11.25	11	11.25	73,300
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.89	0.91	0.89	0.9	4,250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	845	885	845	880	117,790
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.35	3.2	3.35	8,779,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1775	1800	1775	1785	125,550
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	1,000,000
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.22	1.24	50,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	50,000
Philweb Corp.	0.026	0.028	0.025	0.028	283,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	110,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	25,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.25	11.75	11.25	11.5	632,800
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	140,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	12,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.72	1,049,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	130,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.4	6,690,000
EDUCATION					
IPeople Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	33,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Paxys Inc.	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.8	1,564,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1	1	1	1	80,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.26	1.26	1.16	1.16	86,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	1,178,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	80,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.215	0.205	0.21	2,290,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	420,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	13,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	153,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.66	7,132,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.76	1.82	1.72	1.82	10,789,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27.5	27	27.5	76,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	105,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	155,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	700,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	260,000
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	218,800

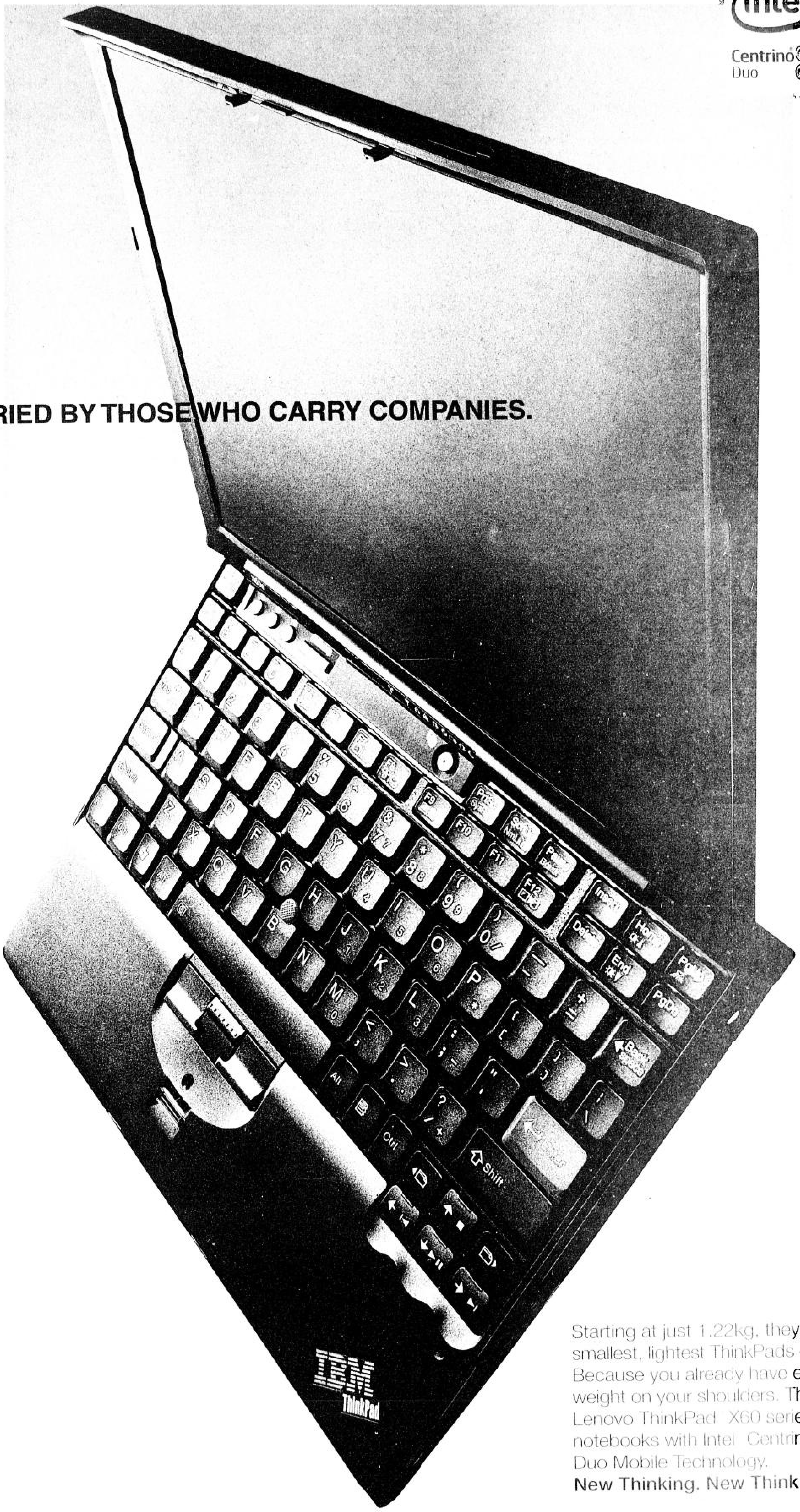
CURRENCIES

February 28, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.843882	1.000000	52.0880
Japan	Yen	0.007263	0.008607	0.4483
United Kingdom	Pound	1.468186	1.739800	90.6227
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108770	0.128893	6.7138
Switzerland	Franc	0.638096	0.756144	39.3860
Canada	Dollar	0.740247	0.877193	45.6912
Singapore	Dollar	0.520305	0.616561	32.1154
Australia	Dollar	0.622608	0.737790	38.4300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.239305	2.653576	138.2195
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225005	0.266631	13.8883
Brunei	Dollar	0.518705	0.614666	32.0167
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000108	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021527	0.025510	1.3288
UAE	Dirham	0.229765	0.272272	14.1821
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.185000	61.7243
Argentina	Peso	0.274657	0.325468	16.9530
Brazil	Real	0.392777	0.465441	24.2439
Denmark	Kroner	0.134026	0.158821	8.2727
India	Rupee	0.019002	0.022517	1.1729
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.227327	0.269382	14.0316
Mexico	New Peso	0.080582	0.095490	4.9739
New Zealand	Dollar	0.557976	0.661201	34.4406
Norway	Kroner	0.124459	0.147484	7.6821
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014110	0.016720	0.8709
South Africa	Rand	0.136606	0.161878	8.4319
Korea	Won	0.000872	0.001033	0.0538
Sweden	Kroner	0.105844	0.125425	6.5331
Syria	Pound	0.016257	0.019264	1.0034
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026045	0.030863	1.6076
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000393	0.000466	0.0243

Lenovo recommends Windows® XP Professional.

intel®
Centrino®
Duo

CARRIED BY THOSE WHO CARRY COMPANIES.



Starting at just 1.22kg, they're the smallest, lightest ThinkPads ever. Because you already have enough weight on your shoulders. The new Lenovo ThinkPad X60 series notebooks with Intel Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology.

New Thinking. New ThinkPad.

lenovo™

lenovo.com/newthinkpad/ph

Travel weight may vary due to components, options and manufacturing process. Lenovo, the Lenovo logo and ThinkPad are trademarks of Lenovo. IBM and the IBM logo are registered trademarks of IBM and are used under license. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Celeron, Celeron Inside, Centrino, Core Inside, Intel, Intel Core, Intel Inside, Intel SpeedStep, Intel Viiv, Intel Xeon, Itanium, Itanium Inside, Pentium, Pentium Inside, the Centrino logo, the Intel logo and the Intel Inside logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Other company, product and service names may be trademarks or service marks of other companies. © 2006 Lenovo. All rights reserved.

God's inspiration through Papuri

IN-A-JIFFY ENTERPRISES, THE market leader in the distribution of quality, innovative videoke microphones in the country under the brand name WOW Magic Sing, announces the launch of the first of its kind Papuri 2006 Edition videoke microphone ED7000.

The Wow Magic Sing Papuri Edition captures the intensity, beauty and inspiration of praise music with its 1,065 built-in Christian songs and hymns. As Christians, there is no better way to glorify God than with prayers and songs.

Aside from the built-in 558 Hymns, 500 praise, worship and contemporary Christian songs and 7 bonus OPM songs, an entirely new feature has been added called the Bible mode. With the Bible mode you can read through the Bible (New International Version). It is ideal for use during Bible studies, seminars, fellowships, retreats, worship service and other church activities.

The Bible mode allows you to read the Bible in either small or large font. It also has an automatic page turn feature with adjustable speed. You can also read with background feature from any of the built-in songs.

This is a capability unique to Wow Magic Sing. This marks the first time ever that Bible reading has been made accessible through the use of a videoke microphone.

Other innovative features include external video source function which allows you to replace the existing picture background with pictures from other video sources such as VCD, DVD, and video camera. With this function you can watch yourself singing with the use of a videocam. You can load four extra song-chips on the Papuri Wow Magic Sing. It is compatible with the song-chip used for the Mabuhay Wow Magic Sing.

The Wow Magic Sing Papuri 2006 Edition is exclusively distributed by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises and G2K Corp. Available at all branches nationwide of Odyssey, Abenson, AstroVision, Automatic Center and other leading appliance, music and video stores nationwide. For more information, call 285-2663, (832) 722-5527 or log on to www.wowmagicmic.com or www.magicsing.com.

Today, March 1, 2006, Mercury Drug celebrates its 61st Diamond anniversary by conducting the "Operation Bigay Lunas" (OBL) in 61 cities and municipalities nationwide. The OBL is an annual, simultaneous, one-day free consultations and medicines for indigent patients. It aims to serve more than 120,000 indigents this year. This undertaking is strongly supported by its business partners, provincial governors, city and municipal mayors. This is Mercury Drug's way of thanking its customers who constantly patronize and support the company. The "Operation Bigay Lunas" is part of Mercury Drug's social contribution to improve the quality of healthcare in the community.

Confab on reproductive health set

THE PHILIPPINES WILL HOST THE first-ever international conference on reproductive health management.

Slated at the Westin Philippine Plaza from May 3 to 5, the conference will gather the world's leaders, managers and advocates in the reproductive health sector, according to the Asia Pacific RH Development Center of the Philippine NGO Support Program Inc (Phansup).

"The conference, supported by the European Commission, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the United Nations Population Fund, will address the global issues and challenges confronting many countries and organizations in implementing reproductive health programs and carrying out pertinent interventions," said Phansup executive director Roberto AO Nebrida.

"Specifically, the conference will help participants, not only on the technical, but also on the management aspects of reproductive health interventions in a community development context," Nebrida added.

The event comes after more than a decade since the staging in Cairo, Egypt of the International Conference on Population and Development, and highlights the 6th year of the global pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals.

With the theme "Creating Impact in Communities", the 1st International Conference on Reproductive Health Management will have plenary and parallel sessions, skills building workshops, exhibits, field visits, donor forum, youth leaders congress, socials and networking nights, and showcases/posters/film showings.

The conference tracks focus on the six functional areas of reproductive health management-governance, policy, ethics and standards; organization and human resource development and management; knowledge management; service delivery and operations management; resource mobilization, partnership and alliance building; and social entrepreneurship and enterprise development, institutionalization and sustainability.

To be highlighted in each session are adolescent and youth reproductive health and rights, family planning, maternal and child health and nutrition, men's reproductive health and involvement, education and counseling on sexuality and sexual health.

Inquiries on registration, abstract presentations, exhibit, and sponsorships can be made with event manager Worldexco (855-8343, 855-8346, e-mail icrhm2006@worldexco.com) or log on to www.worldexco.com.

In collaboration with leading local and international reproductive health and management entities, the conference is organized by Phansup, a non-government organization that provides technical and financial support to community-based and focused groups in building and strengthening their capabilities to implement reproductive health and community development programs and projects.

Let's get excited

AS A RESPONSE TO the local market's clamor for designer wheels for Toyota's top selling RAV4 sports utility vehicle, Concept One is introducing its 20-inch series. Designed to meet aftermarket OEM specifications, Concept One wheels are engineered to improve traction, vehicle stability and looks, transforming your ride into a visual delight on the road. The RAV 4 in the photo is equipped with Concept One's Italia 20x8.5 wheels wrapped in high-performance Nitto 420 tires.

"You really can feel the improvement in terms of suspension performance and riding comfort. I also like the way it improves the character and personality of my RAV4," says Derek Dee, a local businessman who swears by the quality and performance of Concept One.

As a company known for its innovative products, Concept One's line of wheels are also designed to fit Japanese, American and European SUVs, AUVs, compact cars and sedans. Exclusively distributed by Wheel Gallery, Concept One wheels are 100-percent machine made, quality tested, imported and is licensed by various international standard organizations like the Japan Wheel License (JWL), Vehicle Inspection Association (VIA), Specialty Equipment Manufacturer's Association (Sema), ISO9000, QS9000 and TUV.

For inquiries on how to make a statement on the road, log on to www.conceptonewheels.com or visit their showroom at Kartek Center, 318 Santolan Road corner M. Paterno, San Juan, or call 724-7176, 724-2739, or 726-0965. Concept One wheels are also available in dealers nationwide.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	S
26	27 110,000 copies	28 110,000 copies	29 110,000 copies	30 110,000 copies	1 110,000 copies	
3	4 110,000 copies	5 110,000 copies	6 110,000 copies	7 110,000 copies	8 110,000 copies	
10	11 110,000 copies	12 110,000 copies	13 110,000 copies	14 110,000 copies	15 110,000 copies	

AT THE RATE WE CIRCULATE,
WE'RE THE MOST READ FREE NEWSPAPER
DAY IN, DAY OUT.

Inquirer Libre provides daily commuters with up-to-date, useful and relevant news and information. It is the widest circulating free newspaper in Metro Manila, with 110,000 copies* distributed daily from Monday to Friday.

INQUIRER LIBRE
We've captured your market.

*Based on circulations review conducted by Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. for the period of July 1-20, 2005.

See how easy it is to reach your market! Call Jenny Rockwell or Izelle Medina at 897-8808 extensions 537 or 538.

Leonor T. Reyes

of Malolos, Bulacan

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on February 27, 2006 at the age of 96.

She is survived by her brother, **Leopoldo T. Reyes** and his wife **Gloria Zaballero**, her sisters-in-law **Herminia Calvo, Beatriz Clemente** and **Eliza Datu**, her nephews and nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her body lies in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. She will be brought to Malolos, Bulacan and will lie in state at the Sto. Niño Chapel on March 1 and 2.

Interment at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque will follow after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Sanctuario de San Antonio on March 2, 2006.

Please omit flowers. Donations in her memory can be directed to her charity, The Hermogenes Reyes and Teodora Tantoco-Reyes Foundation, Inc.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life . . .
will be able to separate us from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. – **Romans 8:38,39**

Col. TEODORO SONZA ELVAS, P.A., ret.

of New Lucena, Iloilo and Quezon City

peacefully joined our Lord on February 27, 2006 at the age of 87.

His surviving spouse, **Basilisa**, son **Teodoro Jr.**, daughters **Zonia Velasco, Leila Elvas** and **Chona** and **Arthur Ponce**, grandchildren **Noel Patrick** and **Fatima Velasco, Joel** and **Christinne Anne Mendoza, John** and **Sonia Claire Ampil, John** and **Jeanne Marcelle Vicars, Lucien** and **Leiza McArter, Aileen Patricia May, Amelia Karla** and **Gabriel Alan Ponce**, great grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to join the family in giving thanks and praises to the Lord in celebration of his life.

His body lies in state at Funeraria Nacional at 264 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after necrological services at 9:00 a.m. at St. John United Methodist Church, 943 Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, Quezon City.

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO

Let our Funeral Home & Crematory ease your burden

- Elegant & Spacious Chapels
- US-made Caskets
- Catered Meals
- Flowers by Holland Blooms
- Imported Registry Books & Thank You Cards
- Personalized Guest Information Cards
- Horse-drawn Hearse or Cadillac De Ville Hearse
- Obituary Ads

845-2440 • 845-2334 to 38

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

"I will bless you and make your name great;
and you shall be a blessing."
Genesis 12:2

MARCELO CAANGAY DAMILES

of Carmen, Cebu

peacefully joined his Creator on February 27, 2006 at the age of 87.

In loving memory of his grandchildren **Bong, Bonnie & Leng**; his great grandchildren **Bonjo, Bianca, Anjo, Keno, Sandy & Jky**; his daughter-in-law **Bobot; Sarah & Violy** and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Jerome Chapel, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be tomorrow, March 2, 2006 at Manila Memorial Park at 10:00 A.M.

ERRATUM

In the obituary ad of **DULCISIMO D. MARTINEZ** published in the February 28, 2006 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the name of his brother **LANS** should have been **LUIS**.

Our apologies

REMEDIOS S. BLANCAS

Ret. Employee of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 27, 2006 at the age 74.

Her bereaved family **Engr. Alberto S. Blancas, Maria Teresita C. Blancas, Michael C. Blancas** and **Maria Victoria Blancas-Nguyen**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the San Martin de Porres Parish Church, United Hills Village, East Service Road, Barangay San Martin de Porres, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be tomorrow, March 2, 2006 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

JOSE V. CALIXTO

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 26, 2006 at the age 93.

His wife **Luz**; children **Boy** & **Ging, Ching** & **Bert, Danny** & **Linda, Lanie** & **Ed** (†), **Mario** & **Marisue, Malou, George** & **Norma, Eddie Boy** (†) & **Allen, Miday** & **Franklin, Grace, Bobby** and **Fronette**; grandchildren; great grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at the Jacinto Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at Manila Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

GARMA CLINIC-
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, STD, HERPES
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
Painless, Bloodless
SKIN DISEASES
ALLERGIES RE-CURRENT
UTI, ALMORANAS,
ERECTION PROBLEMS
INFERTILITY/IMPOTENCE
MOLE/CYST/SCAR REMOVAL
KELOID/PAP SMEAR
COMPLETE LABORATORY
Garma Bldg., No. 8 Purduo St., Cubao, Q.C.
OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM MON. to SAT.
TEL. NOS. 4392706 4373898/9139474

FOR RENT IN VILLAGE INSIDE TECHNOPARK STA. ROSA, LAGUNA

2 Bdrms / 2TB house fully screened, fitted kitchen w/ stove/ref, two air-cons, big patio, nice garden, suit executive, professionals or SMALL family MAX 4 people.

For info and appt. to view call 09177544900 (Peggy)

ERA Oceanic

LEASE-TO-OWN
Limited Units Only!
8 Wack Wack
2-3BR, 25-35T/mo
Best golf view!
Mandaluyong City
Golf Hill Terraces
15T/mo;Near UP,
Ateneo; Besides
Ayala Heights,QC
867-8913 to 17
0917-8479276

ERRATUM

In the ad of **LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY** (LRTA) which came out in the Inquirer on **February 25, 2006**, paragraph five should be read as **"The approved budget for this contract is Php 1,059,241,862.82 chargeable against LRTA Corporate Operating Budget."**

Our apologies

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
March 16, 2006

The BIR, RR-8 Makati City, Revenue District Office No. 049 North Makati will hold a Public Hearing on March 16, 2006, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the lobby, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City in relation to Department Order No. 35-04 the purpose of which is to update the 5th Revision of the Zonal Values of Real Properties under the jurisdiction of RDO-049 North Makati.

(PDI - March 1, 2006)

MORE VALUE
Now Ready for Occupancy!
SMILE CITIHOMES AND ANNEX
for as Low as
P2,759
per month*
Your monthly amortization covers the full amount of your 30-sqm condo unit with little or no equity added.
Located at Zabarte Ave., Novaliches, QC • Close to SM Fairview & Robinson's Big R!
PHINMA PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORP. City Living Made Easy.
812-PPHC (7742)
0917-812-PPHC (7742)
0922-812-PPHC (7742)
Lead Brokers Reach Out Realty: 983-1804 • Guzie Realty: 758-4257
Boomland Realty: 417-1754 • Concorde Realty: 427-7720
Forte Realty: 830-0372 • Mayet Arabit: 531-7050
* Based on 5 F SMILE CITIHOMES 1 Unit w/ Full Loan amount of P271T under Pag-IBIG as of April 05

Your Dream Condo,
for as low as
P5,303/mo.*
Close to QC Circle, SM Fairview and Robinson's Big R
HURRY! FEW UNITS LEFT! READY FOR OCCUPANCY!
PEARL ST., COMMONWEALTH AVE. EAST FAIRVIEW QC
812-PPHC (7742) • 0917-812-PPHC (7742) • 0922-812-PPHC (7742)
PHINMA PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORP. City Living Made Easy.
SUNNY VILLAS
LEAD BROKERS BOOMLAND REALTY: [illegible]
REACH OUT 983-1804 • FORTE REALTY: 830-0372
CONCORDE REALTY: 418-9490 • WELCOME REALTY: 413-3313
(*BASED ON P500T HDMF LOAN VALUE AS OF SEPT 18, 2004)

ERA Oceanic

Lexington Townhouse
Brand New!
3BR with attic
Pasig City
867-8913 to 17
CRISTY 0927-2219748

RESTAURANT MANAGER
for Japanese Restaurant
Applicant must be:
- Career-driven
- Hard-working
- Friendly
- Hotel experience an advantage

Call : 0917 5379355
Email : rickylaudico@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB Stock Certificate No. 1767 representing one (1) share issued in the name of FUJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORPORATION OF THE PHILS. was lost as per Affidavit of Loss dated February 20, 2006 of Notary Public Atty. Mariano Villanueva of Calamba City as per Doc. No. 168, Page No 35 Book No. 172, Series of 2006. If no contest is received, a new certificate will be issued.

(PDI–Feb. 22, Mar 1 & 8, 2006)

More Classified Ads on pages A16, A21, A23, A24, A25 & B4

LOG ON TO www.condo.com.ph®
THE CONDOMINIUM SPECIALIST
[illegible]
MAKATI CONDO
RENT or SALE
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
PRE-SELLING/INVESTMENT
[illegible]
CALL 843-0887
NOW! 843-0898
0919-8504468

TEXT/CALL
0917 793 8664
* RENT TO OWN *
- WACK² TWIN TOWER

* FOR SALE *
- MANDALUYONG BLDG. 11 STRY, NICE & NEW
- CUBAO H&L 300m² P7M
- PASIG LOTS 100-3000m²

Time to take your rightful place in the corporate world!
JOB Market
JOBZ EMPLOYMENT EXPO [illegible]
MARCH 6-7, 2006 GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER
Join us for the year's first JOBZ Employment Expo at the Glorietta Activity Center. As always, some of the country's top corporations will participate in this two-day job fair in the search for eager and qualified applicants.
For inquiries, please call 897-8808 loc. 237.

MOTORING
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Hyundai fires up car market with CRDi tech

By Charles E. Buban

THE DESIRE TO achieve the seemingly impossible in areas such as engine technology and performance, perfect fuel, driving comfort and occupant safety, is constantly driving innovation in the automotive world.

In the engine technology field for example, diesels were previously regarded as smoke-belching workhorses and seemed to have reached its limits in terms of performance enhancement and meeting more stringent emission standards worldwide.

Then came the breakthrough with the development of the common rail direct injection (CRDi) system, an advanced diesel engine technology that improves diesel performance and emissions level, making diesel engines on par with comparable gasoline engines.

Driving motivation

"The driving motivation behind the development of CRDi is the adherence to ever-increasing emission regulations while maintaining the drivability and low combustion noise characteristics of gasoline-driven engines, and the superior fuel economy of the diesel engine. Hyundai has taken up these challenging tasks by developing its own patented CRDi technology and put it in some of its vehicle models," said Fe Agudo, managing director of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari), the exclusive distributor of the vehicle brand in the Philippines.

She added that with diesel remaining to be much affordable than gasoline and with automobile companies like Hyundai keen on showcasing the latest technological innovations in their vehicles, this new injection system has found its way first into a number of vehicle models.

In the case of Hyundai, its Starex van, Matrix multipurpose vehicle and Tucson sport utility vehicle are now equipped with CRDi and have become among Hari's bestsellers, Agudo informed.

"Hari strongly believes the CRDi will create a new technology benchmark for diesel," she said.

High pressure

While conventional diesel systems must build up the required injection pressure from zero for each injection cycle and are therefore dependent on engine speed and load (resulting in lower performance), with CRDi, a high pressure for fuel delivery is maintained at all speeds, along a single shared fuel line (the common rail) to the cylinders resulting in a diesel engine that runs more smoothly, less noisy (a common complaint of such engines for decades) and goes further for each liter of fuel.

"With Hyundai's patented CRDi technology, our equipped vehicles exhibit an improved fuel efficiency anywhere between 10 percent and 15 percent. Because of a more complete combustion, power output is also increased, anywhere between 15 percent and 20 percent compared to non-CRDi engines of similar displacement," Agudo informed.

She added that because a CRDi engine electronically controls engine pressure, fuel quantity and injection timing, the vehicle delivers much lower nitrous oxides and particulate emissions, making it more environment friendly than other diesel vehicles in the market today.

"Indeed, CRDi engines are a major breakthrough for meeting more stringent emission standards and Hyundai will definitely be in the forefront in the industry's continuing quest to refine diesel technology," Agudo concluded.

On emission testing; Isuzu's power train

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I LIKE WHAT TRANSPORTATION AND COMmunications Secretary Leandro Mendoza did recently. That is, that he has reiterated his desire that all motor vehicle owners must have their vehicles tested only by private emission testing centers (PETCs) endorsed by the DOTC authorization committee.

And what are PETCs?

They are those that are linked to information technology (IT) providers that upload valid and accurate emission test results to the DOTC/LTO-IT system.

It is, therefore, mandated that motor vehicle owners must make sure that their emission test results are uploaded by the PETC-IT providers to the DOTC/LTO-IT system otherwise they will not be able to register their vehicles. To check for more details, call 726-7132.

The reason for this new advisory is that there is again a proliferation of fraudulently issued Certificates of Emission Compliance (CECs) and an increase in the number of smoke-belching vehicles that roam the streets of Metro Manila and other key cities in the country.

To combat this, Mendoza—I'm not related to him although we call each other Primo—has issued DOTC Department Order 2005-34 and D.O. 20005-37 on Oct. 11, 2005 and Nov. 11, 2005, respectively. Both directives had been published earlier. My Primo, like all of us health-conscious folk, recognizes that air pollution affects the health of the country's citizens and takes a toll on the country's economy.

The directives likewise provide for the implementing rules and regulations on the issuance of authorization to PETCs and PETC-IT providers and the monitoring mechanism governing such issuance.

To ensure the integrity of the emission test results and the efficiency of operation, PETC and IT providers will not be authorized to operate by the DOTC authorization committee unless they comply with said orders.

In particular, PETCs are required to upload all emission test results to their IT providers which shall in turn upload such tests to the DOTC/LTO-IT system.

With the strict enforcement of the "No Emission Test, No Registration" policy of DOTC and LTO, and to avoid inconvenience in the registration transaction, motorists had better check that the PETCs that they go to for emission testing have PETC-IT providers that are interconnected with the DOTC/LTO-IT system.

It will be recalled that Republic Act 8749, known as the Clean Air Act of 1999, mandates DOTC to implement emission standards for motor vehicles and to authorize PETCs to conduct emission testing.

So there. Anyone not complying with the rules will suffer the consequences.

* * *

Manila's proud symbol of heritage, the jeepney, has found a new ally in the Isuzu Powertrain.

In a fitting vote of confidence, the national alliance of jeepney operators and drivers chose Isuzu to supply brand-new diesel engines to power their idea of the 21st century jeepney.

This is another feather to the cap of Isuzu, whose reputation as an assembler not just of tough, dependable commercial vehicles but also of performance-oriented yet fuel-efficient power plants is known worldwide. If there's one group of motorists who know a thing or two about powerful but economical diesel engines, it's certainly the jeepney operators and drivers.

But while jeepneys in the past used surplus diesel engines, the modern jeepney, which the Philippine Jeepney Operators and Drivers Alliance Foundation (PJODAF) built, already boasts of a brand-new Isuzu Powertrain diesel engine specifically designed for automotive applications.

The jumbo jeepney—designed by PJODAF president Orlando Marquez—is an air-conditioned jeepney model that sits from 25 to 30 passengers.

The project was carried out under the direction of the Department of Transportation and Communications and was launched on Feb. 2 at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board compound in Quezon City.

Present during the unveiling rites were Marquez, DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza, DOTC Assistant Secretary Anneli Lontoc, LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista, former DILG Secretary Angelo Reyes, DOTC Undersecretary Ricardo Alfonso Jr., Isuzu Philippines Corp. president Yoshifumi Komura, IPC corporate business vice president Arthur Balmadrid and prominent leaders of transport groups in Metro Manila.

Ka Lando Marquez said his group's ultimate goal is to export these world-class, Isuzu-powered jeepneys to countries that require a practical and efficient means of mass transport. Seen as a potential dollar earner for the country, the jumbo jeepneys, supported no less by GMA, are expected to generate employment for Filipinos as these locally made vehicles play a role in strengthening the national economy and expediting the government's globalization efforts.

As I see that ever-infectious smile on the lips of Ronald "Isuzu Joe" Baladad, here's to Isuzu's continuing march to progress.

* * *

QUOTE ME. You drive out of town, you need to have enough rest on the eve of the trip.

When plan B fails

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

FRIDAY MORNING, VERY EARLY and I'm sure many felt that history was painfully repeating itself. As any child of the '80s will attest to, news of any sort of upheaval is a naively bittersweet sort of matter. How many instances did I have to gladly stand down from the daily preparations for school? Several times over, yet at the same moment a sense of fear and uncertainty was always simmering in the back of my teenage mind. Segue to the here and now, to another Friday in February.

The differences with this early morning rousing are quite marked. The Department of Education no longer holds the keys to an instant vacation. Work had to be attended to and for that to happen, I had to find a route from my apartment on Pasong Tamo, Makati, to my office on Araneta Avenue, in the heart of Quezon City.

Options for my usual 20-km commute were available; it was just a matter of collating all the traffic reports and sifting through the dozens of text messages that had been piling up in my Inbox since the predawn hours. In this digital, wireless age there are some situations where way too much information is a delaying handicap rather than an aid in quick decision making.

Hope for the best

Right off the top of my head were three very obvious and very different options for getting to work. Plan A was to charge straight down Edsa and hope for the best. You have to understand, in many years of commuting, very seldom has this stretch of road ever come to resemble the eerie, hour-long gridlock standstills of the early '90s. Regular working days will greet drivers and passengers alike with stifling volumes of vehicles, but at least it moves—just in the same way an overly lethargic snail will eventually, in this millennium, make it down a quarter mile stretch.

Last Friday morning was by no means a regular day, even if we just consider the traffic situation; the path straight down Edsa (formerly Highway 54) seemed both the least logical and safe. Regardless of political or ideological affiliation, the northbound lane of Manila's main thoroughfare was going to get hairy for anyone with a car. Everyone who believed they had a rightful stake in the future of the nation wanted a sound bite, some video footage or print mention during last Friday's spectacle. That's a lot of hopefuls cramming into a very small piece of public works real estate.

Another gamble

The B option for Friday involved another gamble, albeit safer and quite a no-brainer actually. Circumferential Road 5 provides multilane access to very much the same locales as Edsa. On a good day, driving this road makes one feel that super car ownership is a very real possibility in our "little exercise of democracy." Ninety five percent of the time though, reality hits home with pedestrians once again playing *patintero* with 80-kph traffic. And there are the trucks at jackknife when they panic brake for said extreme jaywalkers. This is Activision's Frogger in real life, ladies and gentlemen.

Despite the very genuine danger of C-5, last Friday it seemed the only other viable option for South to North traffic. It was a foregone conclusion of course that almost every other vehicle with an internal combustion engine would take the same route, but at least the specter of a running dispersal, with truncheons and teargas, was a few kilometers away. Crawl I might toward my destination, but at least I did not have to keep my eyes peeled for any sort of projectiles.

Shortcut route

The final option for the day was the Makati-Mandaluyong route, via San Juan. This shortcut (is it actually shorter?) is a god send to those who have the right ending numbers on their license plate. Do not make the mistake of attempting to pass here even if you are just a tad unsure about the coding scheme.

Whatever your understood workings of the vehicle coding system do not apply here; no MMDA window or declared holiday is safe. The best thing to do would be to ask a traffic enforcer about the rules, but by that time, it's too late, as you are probably in some sort of violation already. The practically autonomous cities of Makati and San Juan exercise their self-determination in this manner.

So eventually, where did I pass? Did I even make it to my destination? Of course not, my chosen route via C-5 just took too much of a toll on both my patience and kidney. With my schedule automatically freeing itself up, an instant holiday was at hand. I decided to visit a friend's shop in Libis that just happens to sell bicycles. I would be lying if I said there was no sense of flagrant irony to the moment, as if the traffic was sneering in mockery and saying, "You should have just biked."

Biofuel drive stalled

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

DESPITE THE FREquent price swings of petroleum, legislation mandating the use of alternative fuels appears to be stalled in Congress.

Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri's biofuels bill was passed by the House of Representatives and sent to the Senate in November 2005, only to get stuck in the Senate committee on energy. There is no news, either, about the progress—if any—through the legislative mill of Sen. Edgardo Angara's bill for the compulsory use of coconut-sourced biodiesel.

The government's drive to promote the use of indigenous-based alternative fuels is being approached by car manufacturers in different ways. Ford Motor Co. Philippines is fast-tracking its P1.1-billion flexible fuel engine assembly plant to be able to go into full production within a year. Flex-fuel engines run on either gasoline or a combination of gasoline and 20 percent bio-ethanol

Flex-fuel

Ford plans to produce 100,000 flex-fuel engines over the next five years, 80,000 of which will be exported to the Asian region. The remaining 20,000 will be sold locally. This would make the Philippines the Southeast Asian center for flex-fuel technology.

On the other hand, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) recently issued a caveat on the use of biofuel blends. Campi president Elizabeth H. Lee said that consumers should be free to choose the type of motor fuel they will use, taking into account quality, cost and availability.

Campi thinks that biofuel blends should not be mandatory and must conform with the biofuel standards of the Worldwide Fuel Charter (WWFC) which are based on technical studies done by automotive engineers and developed by global automotive and engine manufacturers.

Max blend

The point was made that the allowable maximum blend by volume of ethanol with gasoline is 10 percent, per WWFC specs, while the max blend by volume of fatty acid methyl esters or vegetable-derived esters (such as coconut methyl ester) with diesel is 5 percent. (That's fine with Angara's biodiesel measure as it mandates a 1 percent CME blend.)

Back in June 2004, Campi had already reminded the Department of Energy of an existing policy that the warranty of a motor vehicle shall be considered null and void if the manufacturer finds, after an appropriate test and investigation, that a problem was caused or proven to be attributable to the use of fuel or additives not recommended or approved by the manufacturer.

The problem or problems covered by this nullity are those directly affecting the fuel tank and fuel lines, engine fuel pump and injector, combustion chambers, exhaust systems and other related functional components.

Warning

Campi's caveat on biofuels is similar to that of Australia's Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries which issued a warning last year that unless the fuel system components have been chosen on the basis of compatibility with ethanol, they may fail since ethanol as a solvent attacks both metallic and rubber-based fuel lines and other fuel system components including plastic ones. Further, that since ethanol has an affinity to water, it may cause the corrosion of fuel tanks and fuel lines. In fuel injection systems, the use of ethanol-blended gasoline may result in early deterioration of the injector seats, delivery pipes, fuel pump and regulator.

The Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV), like Campi, believes that the government should not make adding ethanol to gasoline compulsory. In fact, the RACV wants signs to be placed on fuel pumps declaring the ethanol content and warning customers to check with their vehicle manufacturer before using ethanol-blended gasoline, whether 5 percent ethanol (E5) or 10 percent (E10). In Europe, by the way, the max level is E5, so keep that in mind if you buy a European car after the compulsory use of biofuels becomes law here.

Hybrids

Meanwhile, Toyota and Honda are into hybrid cars, which combine a gasoline engine with an electric motor to get more mileage than a conventional car. Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. is waiting for tax incentives from the government to make feasible the CBU (completely built up) importation of the Prius, America's best-selling hybrid car. Later this year, Toyota will launch the 2007 Hybrid Synergy Drive Camry in the United States.

Honda Motor Co. reportedly plans to introduce a hybrid version of the Jazz subcompact in several markets around the world. Honda's first hybrid car was the Insight. Honda also sells hybrid versions of the Civic and the Accord in the United States.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: By the time you make ends meet, they move the ends.

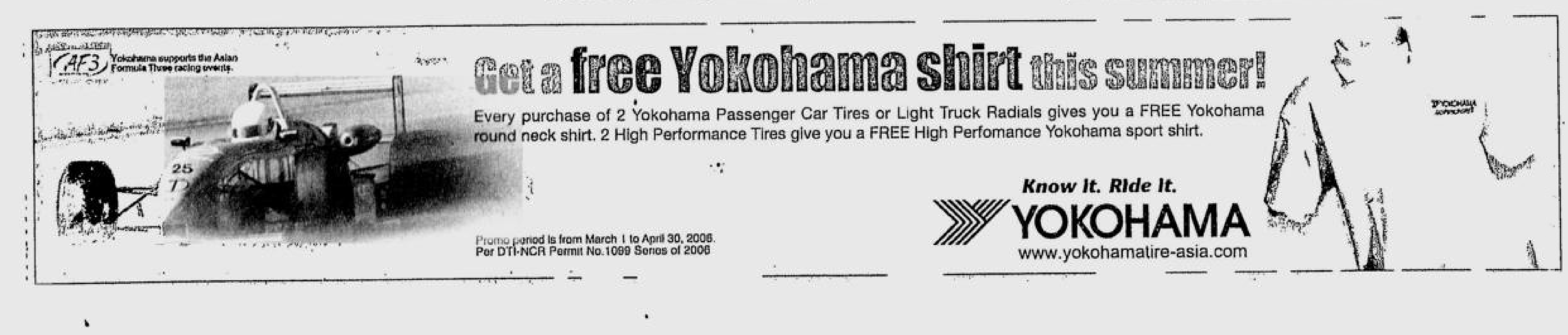
* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

Too many visiting relatives?

Check out the AUTOMOBILE-RENTING classification in the

DPC YELLOW PAGES



AF3 Yokohama supports the Asian Formula Three racing events.

Get a free Yokohama shirt this summer!

Every purchase of 2 Yokohama Passenger Car Tires or Light Truck Radials gives you a FREE Yokohama round neck shirt. 2 High Performance Tires give you a FREE High Perfomance Yokohama sport shirt.

Promo period is from March 1 to April 30, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1099 Series of 2006

Know It. Ride It.
YOKOHAMA
www.yokohamatire-asia.com

RAMON F. GARCIA & CO.

Milestones

1981 : Young and idealistic, Ramon F. Garcia, then only 26 years old, left a promising job to start his own accounting and auditing firm in a home-office set-up.

1982 : As clients started pouring in, Garcia enlisted the help of his brother Josefino and three former colleagues Noli De Castro, Carlo Magno dela Cruz and Machie Flores Jr., to form the partnership Garcia, De Castro & Company. The group registered their partnership on August 1, 1982. They then moved to the next door apartment of Garcia's residence.

1983 : The company accepted its first batch of trainees from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) where Garcia also taught accounting classes.

1984 : The company successfully handled the registration module of the 8th World Congress of Anaesthesiologist which was held in Manila. The congress was attended by thousands of anaesthesiologists from all over the world.

1985 : The company's Vision-Mission Statement was drafted. It became the company's guiding principle since then. It was also during this year that the company transferred to its first formal office set-up, sharing office space with the Makati Jaycees at the ADC Building in Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

1986 : The company clinched its first account on computerization - Colegio San Agustin's payroll system.

1987 : Moved office to Goodyear Building (now WalterMart) in Pasay Road corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City.

1988 : The partnership Garcia, De Castro & Company dissolved, paving the way to the formation of Ramon F. Garcia & Company, with Ramon F. Garcia and brother Josefino as founding partners.

1989 : The company formed a new department called the Information Systems Services Division (ISSD) which would cater to the information technology needs of clients.

1990 : This year, RFG & Co.'s ISSD developed a general ledger software which paved way for a more systematic system for a lot of clients.

1991 : April of this year, RFG & Co. completed the implementation of its first computerization project - the Registrar and Enrollment System of Colegio San Agustin.

1992 : The company moved to Buendia Shopping Plaza.

1993 : After a year at the Buendia Shopping Plaza, the company again transferred office to Manila Bank Building in Ayala Avenue.

1994 : As more clients with IT needs came in, the company decided to make its ISSD into a separate company, paving way to the establishment of First Serv IT.

1995 : RFG & Co. was admitted to CS International, an Asean organization of accountants.

1996 : As clients' needs continued to expand, the company decided to partners with other group and form a company dedicated to address marketing and promotional needs. The first major promotional engagement was signed in this year.

1997 : RFG & Co.'s ISSD (First Serv IT) have successfully developed the payroll computerized system

1998 : Growth continued to go uphill. By this time, RFG & Co.'s staff reached 50. It was also this year that RFG & Co. got accepted with the prestigious TAG International, one of the leading international organizations of accountant.

1999 : Along with its fast expansion, the company became more resolute in its commitment to the staff. Acknowledging the important role they play in the company's growth, staff were offered more benefits. During this year, the first batch of staff were sent to Hong Kong as incentive for their exemplary performance.

2000 : Compliance of Y2K for all the computerized system developed by First Serv IT.

2001 : Marked the 20th year of the company with celebration and thanksgiving held at New World Hotel Grand Ballroom.

2002 : RFG & Co. was accepted as member firm of AGN International, the 12th largest accountant's organization in the world with 199 member firms in 83 countries.

2003 : As the company's growth continued to expand, RFG & Co. finally bought its own office at the 30th floor of Burgundy Corporate Center in Buendia Avenue, Makati City. By this time, the staff grew to 75. This year also, RFG & Co.'s managing partner Ramon F. Garcia was elected as director for Asia Pacific Region of AGN International.

2005 : The company embarked on its first outreach program, a testament to its corporate social responsibility.

THE PARTNERS
Catalina A. Lazo, Nhorie L. Paguio, Josefino F. Garcia and Ramon F. Garcia

Our partnership philosophy

OUR OBJECTIVE

Our objective is to engage in professional consultancy services in the field of finance; information technology, taxation, accounting, human resource development, marketing, Philippine Visa, immigration documentation and other business-related activities. All our services must be rendered excellently; meeting, if not exceeding client's expectation and requirements.

We will always be guided by standards of integrity and professionalism, and will strive to preserve the reputation of excellence that has earned RFG & CO. the trust and confidence of its clientele.

TO CLIENT

Our mission is to help our client's business grow. As such, we view our relationship as a partnership in progress. Being so, we will provide them with professional assistance through accurate, meaningful and timely reports and advises.

We always treat our clients with high degree of professionalism. As much as possible, we will perform our tasks more than what the client expects.

The survival of our firm depends on our client's satisfaction, which is our utmost concern. It is expected of everyone in the company to give his/her best in rendering quality service.

We shall always anticipate our client's future needs and help them fulfill those needs. They are our reason for doing things.

Likewise, our practice must earn a reasonable profit to enable us to continuously provide our client with excellent and quality service. We are to provide for the continuous professional growth, as well as increased financial benefits to our employees, ensure a fair return to partners and contribute to the general well being of the country in general and to the profession in particular.

TO EMPLOYEES

Our employees are our most valuable resources. We will provide them with the work environment that will protect their health, promote their well being, develop their potentials and instill pride to work for RFG & Co.

We are committed to personal and professional development to better satisfy client's needs, while keeping in mind the employee's self-fulfillment and personal satisfaction.

TECHNOLOGY

We will always adopt new technology in the performance of professional services. As such we shall always be on the look out for new technology and trends that will not only benefit RFG & CO. but our client as well.

Are you tired of these trying times?

Together, we can

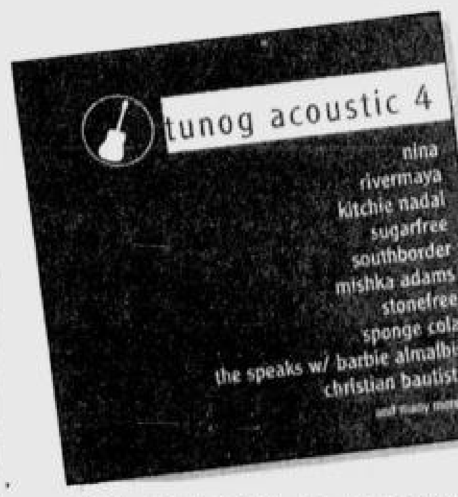
DISCOVER THE WAY OUT.

Watch The 700 Club Asia's
3-day Special on
March 13, 14 & 15, 2006
After Pinoy Big Brother Up Late
on ABS-CBN

THE 700 CLUB ASIA

All the hottest OPM artists in one of the biggest selling acoustic album series ....

TUNOG ACOUSTIC 4



Kitchie Nadal - Same Ground
Rivermaya - You'll Be Safe Here
The Speaks w/ Barbie Almalbis - High
Nina - I Will Always Love You
Juana - Goodbye

IN STORES NOW!

Text TUNOG to 2346

to get the hottest weekly PINOY TONES. P15/tone

WARNER MUSIC PHILIPPINES

Information Gateway

FINO
LEATHERWARE

Glorietta 3 Shangri-La Plaza Mall Alabang Town Center
Power Plant Mall Eastwood Robinsons Place

RAMON F. GARCIA & COMPANY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

AGN INTERNATIONAL

RFG&Co. marks 25 years

THE POWER team of RFG & Co.: 25 Years of integrity, professionalism and competence

RAMON F. GARCIA & COMPANY, Certified Public Accountants (RFG & Co), one of the country's most trusted names in the industry, is set to mark its silver anniversary with a grand celebration and thanksgiving at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City today.

A small company at the outset, RFG & Co. has grown from offering dedicated accounting services to providing one of the most complete professional business consultancy in the Philippines.

"Our business is a business of trust. We would not have reached our 25th year without the trust and confidence of our clients, the dedication of highly competent staff, and of course, without the guidance from the Lord," said RFG & Co. founder and managing partner Ramon F. Garcia.

RFG & Co. started humbly as a solo venture in 1981 when Garcia left his employer to pursue a lifetime dream of having his own accounting and auditing firm. In 1982, he partnered with his former colleagues to form Garcia, De Castro and Company. The company name later changed to Ramon F. Garcia & Co.

Despite the political turmoil that marked the '80s which started with the assassination of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. to the People Power Revolution, the firm continued to grow, building its workforce by recruiting topnotch students from different accounting schools.

Aside from expanding its portfolio of clients and services, RFG & Co. also focused on the development of its employees for much of the decade, offering constant workshops and seminars to improve their skills and learn new ones. In 1995, RFG & Co. became a member firm of CS International. Three years later, it became a member firm of the prestigious TAG International.

Because of its stature and strong reputation among clients, RFG & Co. was readily accepted as a member in 2002 in the prestigious AGN International, a worldwide association of independent accounting and consulting firms. AGN International is present in 83 countries, with 199 leading accounting and consulting firms represented in over 482 office locations worldwide. Mr. Ramon F. Garcia sits as a Board Member in the Asia Pacific Region of AGN International.

The vision *lives on...*

"A TOPNOTCH GLOBAL PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANCY FIRM APplying Christian Values and principles in assisting and helping Clients' business grow and providing our Staff with excellent professional growth and above-industry remuneration."

This, in a nutshell, is the hope and aspiration of Ramon F. Garcia & Co., CPAs. Founded 25 years ago by a young visionary, Ramon F. Garcia, the company started in a rented apartment somewhere in Makati with practically only a ream of office stationery, a box of calling cards, a borrowed table and, a great dream.

Today, Ramon F. Garcia & Co. has gone a long way from its "garage operations" days to a medium-sized company with an ever-growing number of staff and clientele. Its pursuit of excellence guided by the highest standards of integrity, professionalism and fairness, Ramon F. Garcia & Co. has earned for itself the respect of its clientele.

The past 25 years have not been an easy ride. Yet, the vision carved in the heart of its founder and the strong determination to soar to greater heights sustained the company through all the difficult times.

Twenty-five years after its founding, Ramon F. Garcia & Co. takes it slowly but surely as it aims to become the best in the industry. It continually works hard to solidify the core values that it instills daily among its employees. Every task is done with competence, integrity, honesty, quality, humility, industry, excellence and determination - qualities that carry greater weight and importance now more than ever in the midst of accounting and auditing malpractices that are becoming rampant not only here in the country but also around the globe.

Today, proof of the solid trust given by its clientele, the company's services now span various industries, covering almost everything from advertising to wholesale and retail.

The future looks bright for Ramon F. Garcia & Co. Though the company also expects more challenges along the way. But with all the necessary foundations laid down, the company will definitely pull all the stops to make its vision a reality. Its leaders have prepared a long-term goal focused on leveraging the company's core values, strength and expertise. Expect Ramon F. Garcia & Co. to be always on its toes as it faces more challenges and achieves more successes. For, as the Good Book says, "With God, all things are possible to them who believe."

Max's Crispy
PATA

Max's®
RESTAURANT
since 1945

TRIPLEX
ENTERPRISES INCORPORATED

Burlington®
THE SOCKS AUTHORITY

CNT WORLDWIDE TRANSPORT, INC.
CNT AIR EXPRESS, INC

KICK OUT GOUT !!!
"Gout is a kind of arthritis specifically caused by too much uric acid in the joints. Uric acid maybe obtained from various dietary sources.
For more information
Call now!
1-800-10-6-HEALTH
(FREE OF CHARGE) 432584
or 637-48-90

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

TIME TO GET ANGRY

We were all set with our planned issue. A Valentine special that would spread love this week by publishing the winning entries of our Valentine promo.

But the events that took place last Friday cannot be ignored.

Many of us woke up to the news that the president had declared a state of national emergency.

Why? We spent hours watching the news, wondering what would happen next. Our hearts ached when we saw policemen arrest professor Randy David.

"You're arresting us?" he asked.

"Yes," a policeman who looked more like a Tagalog movie villain said.

"On the basis of what?" professor Randy David asked.

"Proclamation 1017! Go!" the policeman said, pushing the professor into a car, as if force could make up for the lack of explanation.

Then we watched as rallyists were beaten with rods. They hurled stones at us, the policemen said. But one man was down and they were still beating him.

Then we heard that the Tribune office got raided. And our outrage grew.

What's next?

Friday was a day of irony: Instead of celebrating a beautiful day of people power and true freedom, our stomachs churned as we witnessed the rape of democracy.

This issue is our reaction.

What do you think of Proclamation No. 1017?

Philippines listen: This is the youth talking

"THEY SAY 1017 WAS PROCLAIMED BEcause the state was under a 'clear and present danger.' If there was clear and present danger, it was only against this administration. But the administration is not the State. Mrs. Arroyo wants us to believe that we should stop and focus instead on our 'rising' economy. So I'll tell you what's under clear and present danger: our society. We can't let ourselves become a people who put the economy above morals and principles." **–Iampepe.com**

"Just put a duct tape on every Filipino's mouth, tie their hands and feet and go back home and get Bush on speaker phone so they can continue planning world domination." **–Maui, 22**

"You want to know why I'm not proud of my country? There you go." **–Rowena, 19**

"I think it's an overkill. It may have attained its objective, but it just confused the people. If there's a less drastic move just to maintain peace and order, I'd go for that." **–Gifaloo, 25**

"Goodbye freedom, hello curfew?" **–Lada, 23**

"It's a waste of time. I think Gloria should focus on cleaning up her act instead of fending off her detractors." **–Sam Refran, 22, activist-in-the-making**

"It's a whiff of martial law." **–Vayie, 29**

"It's stupid. *Ka-praningan*." **–Dale Lopez, 26**

"To be honest, I feel apathy. I just feel that even with the state of emergency, everything is still uncontrolled as shown by the nonstop coverage of the Fort Bonifacio stand-off. Honestly, I hope the media (especially TV stations) would stop sensationalizing every action. It just makes matters worse." **–Jen, 27**

"It's Marcosian." **–Drakulita**

"I feel that it's a hindrance to our personal freedom and should be lifted. Paranoia is not the answer to any crisis." **–Jocs**

"GMA's excuse to suppress the people." **–Pinky, 26**

"Gloria is so afraid to lose her position that's why she declared the state of emergency. Obvious *talaga*." **–Jake**

"Under the Constitution, Proclamation No. 1017 is a valid exercise of executive powers. However, it does not confer any additional powers on the President, which only Congress can do so. Therefore, the actions of law enforcement agencies of indiscriminately arresting people without valid search warrants, the 'threat' made by government to the press and other curtailment of civil liberties is highly illegal and unconstitutional." **–Herbert Javier Blas, 25**

"I don't feel it at all. It's just that I'm stuck at home. I just know that there's no actual emergency like the Hurricane Katrina or something. Just some old people power-grabbing." **–Kelly**

"The proclamation was inappropriate to the situation. Before it should be declared, a situation where there is total chaos and disorder must be present. This is another dictatorship in the making." **–Melissa**

"It's not abuse but it's not the proper use of power either. GMA is just too scared to be toppled. She's just drinking too much coffee." **–Deyey, 21**

"Whether we admit it or not, Proclamation No. 1017 is a taste of martial law for us who were not there during the time of Edsa 1. Of course, it is important for a country's leader to know how to handle a crisis, but then it should not be to the extent of suppressing everyone who would get in the way, including the media. The people need to know the issues so that they can decide and make a stand on the problems of the country today—to practice real citizenship in a democratic country." **–Rhiz**

"GMA feels threatened that people power, which made her rise into the presidency, will also be the reason for her downfall." **–RG, 29**

"It is just right to have Proclamation No. 1017. Filipino people have been caught up with these savage wolves [politicians] waiting to have a piece of the meat [government]. I do not want to continue to convince the rest of my countrymen to rally on the streets as to go after our democracy. Look at the masses, they are just gravely taken advantage of by those wanting to grab power." **–ccunnings**

"The powers appropriated to the President after declaring a state of emergency are being used to violate our human rights and the rights enshrined in our Constitution. Conducting warrantless arrests, suppressing the freedom of the press and silencing the voices of those in protest—these should be stopped. Suddenly, I feel like I'm no longer in the Philippines, but in communist China. Where has our democracy gone?" **–Eon, 21**

"The President should take caution against violating human rights during the

WHAT/C2

P4,800 FOR 2 COURSES
SPECIAL ECONOMY CLASS
Mon to Fri 2-4:30PM Apr 3-7
- Speech Dynamics: Develop & Master Oral Skills
- Practical Conversations: Fluency of English
- Children's Speech & Personality (5-12 yrs. old) MON THRU FRI 9-12NN

SUMMER CLASSES START APRIL 17, 18, 22, 23, 29, May 7, 16
Scheds: MW, TTH, SAT, SUN / Morning, Afternoon, Evening

- Speech Dynamics
- Practical Conversations Fluency & Mastery of English
- Business Writing
- Power Talking Skills
- Personality in Action
- Rapid Reading & Comprehension
- Finishing Course
- Wellness Program

KIDDIE ACADEMY
(3 TO 12 yrs. old)
Speech Arts, Theater Arts, English Fluency, Grammar, Reading & Comprehension, Character Bldg., Personality Dev
Summer Classes Start Apr 17, 18, 22, May 16
Present Classes Available
SPECIAL FEATURE: VTR-SEE YOURSELF ON A LARGE SCREEN

CLASSES AT ORTIGAS CENTER SAT 9-12NN
Reserve Early Limited Seats Only
ONLY AT WCT: FREE VTR-SEE AND HEAR YOURSELF ON A MOVIE SCREEN
Present & Pre-summer classes are also available
IELTS • TOEFL • TSE • CALL CENTER
Private Tutoring and Corporate Training Available

WCT Wilma Cruz-Tapalla
ACADEME OF SPEECH AND PERSONALITY
SINCE 1967
www.wctacademe.com

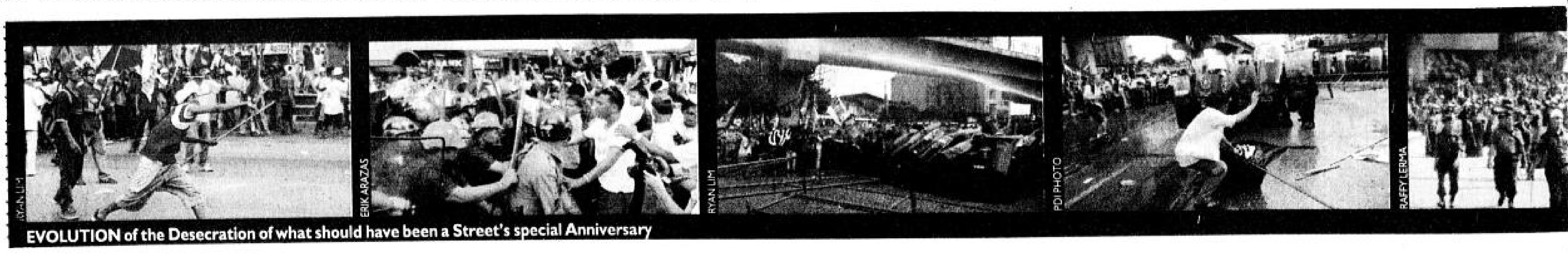
GREENHILLS
Providence Bldg.
55 Annapolis
723-4118
or 726-8768

ORTIGAS CENTER
Meralco Ave.
638-8034
or 726-8768

THE NEW 80ml FRESH CITRUS LISTERINE

Fresh Citrus
LISTERINE

Never underestimate small and sweet.
The mild orange taste that kills 99.9% of germs.



EVOLUTION of the Desecration of what should have been a Street's special Anniversary

HUWAG KANG MAG-YEHEY DAHIL WALANG PASOK

By Erica Clariz C. de los Reyes
Contributor

HUWAG KANG MATUWA DAHIL hindi matutuloy ang long test mo, maraming nagpuyat para mag-aral diyan sa lintik na eksamen na yan. Ang mga magulang mo, sa halip na ligtas din sila sa bahay kasama mo, na araw-araw kumakayod maibigay lang ang magandang edukasyon sa iyo, ay magtatrabaho pa rin sa araw na ito. At ikaw, maaaring nakahilata ka lang sa kama buong araw, nanonood ng MTV sa halip na mga balita.

Babaybayin ng mga magulang mo ang mga kalsadang maaaring punung-puno na naman ng mga taong kasama sa rally, papunta sa mga kompaniyang tumatanggap lang ng mga edukadong galing sa tatlong pinakakilalang unibersidad sa bansa ngayon. Sila rin 'yung mga kompaniyang mag-aalok sa iyo ng trabaho pagkatapos mo sa kolehiyo, na siya rin namang tatanggapin mo kasi mahirap na ang mamili ngayon.

Maiisip mo na hindi mo nga kasalanan at ganyan ang sistema ng pagsusuma-total ng mga kompaniya sa pagkatao mo, na base lang sa nakalagay sa diploma mo ang sukat ng kakayahan mo—pero hindi rin kasalanan ng mga hindi nakapagtapos na hanggang janitor lang ang maabot nila. Na maski sa sarili nila kailangan nilang itago kung ano ang talagang ginagawa nila—floor manager, hindi janitor, kumbaga.

Huwag kang matuwa kasi apat na araw na lang ang natitira sa iyo para pumasok sa linggong ito. Ang mga magulang mo, papasok pa rin sa trabaho, makikisalamuha na naman sa mga negosyante at iba pang kapitalista na galit na galit sa mga taong dinadala ang bersiyon nila ng hustisya sa kalsada, kasi dahil dito, bumabagsak ang halaga ng piso, kasabay na nito ang walang humpay na perwisyo.

Huwag. Huwag kang ganyan.

Huwag kang matuwa dahil wala ring pasok noong nakaraang Biyernes. Huwag kang magsaya dahil may long weekend ka. Huwag mong idaan sa kunwaring pagsuporta sa mga nag-rally sa may Santolan ang kagalakan mo dahil isa sila sa mga dahilan kung bakit ka nakapagpahinga noong araw na iyon. Sa ibang dako ng bansa tulad ng Leyte, marami pang katawan ang nakabaon sa ilalim ng lupa at hindi na matatagpuang muli. Sa ilang sulok ng eskinita, may mga nanay pa ring iniingatan ang ticket nila sa "Wowowee" kasi baka manalo pa sila kung sakali.

Huwag kang haharap sa TV at panoorin ang mga binobomba ng tubig at pinupukpok ng maraming pulis kahit na nakahiga na lang ang biktima at hindi na lumalaban, tapos sasabihin mong "Kawawa naman," pagkatapos ay uupo ka sa hapag-kainan saka kakain ng masarap na hapunan. Hindi ka uuwing maraming pasa sa katawan, at gutom na gutom sa hustisya.

Huwag mong sasabihin sa sarili na miyembro ka ng mga kabataang bukas ang isip at malay sa kapaligiran, kung hindi ka naman interesado sa kung ano'ng mangyayari bukas, kung ang tanging kontribusyon mo lang sa lahat ng pangyayari ay, "Kung hindi si Gloria, sino?" at kung ang tanging masasambit mo lang ay, "Sawang-sawa na ko."

Huwag. Alam mo ba kung ano ang ibig sabihin ng sawa?

Galing sa Asian Dictionary:

sawa

1) saw'a n. boa constrictor

2) saw'a' adj. satiated, sated, satisfied, tired

Related:

boa

boa n. a very large snake that is not poisonous: sawa

fed up

fed up adj. tired of, disgusted, annoyed: suyang-suya, sawang-sawa, yamot na yamot

tired

tired adj.

1) weary, exhausted: pagod, pagal, hapo, nahahapo

2) tired of waiting: inip

3) tired from standing, kneeling, etc.: ngawit, nangangawit, mitig, namimitig

4) tired by noise or a monotonous attitude or condition: bagot, nababagot

5) fed up: sawa na, nagsasawa na, nanghihinawa na, suya na

Kung sawa ka na sa sitwasyon ngayon, hindi ka lang yamot. Hindi ka lang yamot.

Kaya huwag kang mag-yehey dahil nawawalan ng pasok.

Ikaw ang nawawalan, hindi ang eskuwelahan.

Ikaw ang nawalan nang idineklara ang Proclamation No. 1017. 1017, hindi 1081, na ikinalito maski ng mga kinauukulang nakatataas, sa kadahilanang hindi nalalayo ang 1017 sa 1081. Nawalan ka ng karapatang mag-isip para sa sarili, kasi ipinipilit sa iyo ng pamahalaan na ang Proclamation No. 1017 ay deklarasyon ng State of Emergency. Kailangan maniwala ka doon. Pero kung nag-iisip ka, alam mong wala itong pinagkaiba sa Proclamation No. 1081—ang Martial Law:

Reports have come in that there are already more than 100 political prisoners detained in military camps around the metro, ever since yesterday's proclamation, all arrested without any warrants, all arrested under Proclamation No. 1017.

–Cop With Gun, News On 12 (by Adam David)

Ikaw ang nawalan ng karapatang malaman ang lahat, nang nagkaroon ng raid sa Daily Tribune at Abante. Walang dahilan at walang warrant na ibinigay ang mga kinauukulan.

Ikaw ang nawawalan ng karapatang ipahayag ang sarili nang arestuhin si Randy David at iba pang lider ng iba't ibang grupo na nagtungo sa kahabaan ng Edsa para ipakita ang pagkadismaya na hindi mo pa nagagawa. Walang mabigat at legal na dahilan para sila ay dakpin. Ikaw ang nawawalan ng karapatang ipagtanggol ang sarili, nang ilang kabataan ang inaresto rin noong Biyernes. Kahit menor de edad, ikinulong. Kung ipinanganak ka lang sa pamilya nila, maaaring ikaw na iyon.

[David] asked for a dialogue with Gen. Nicasio Radovan Jr. To his surprise though, he was apprehended in the middle of negotiations with the police officials.

To his further surprise, his captors invoked Proclamation No. 1017 as basis for his arrest.

"What's that?" David blurted out as it was the first time he had heard of such a decree. "Nobody could tell me what it is. Obviously, not one of them has read, much less gotten hold of a copy of Proclamation 1017."

The detainees were from Bagong Silang in Caloocan, many were women and children, the youngest of whom was only 7 years old. David learned that they were arrested in Greenhills for a traffic violation—they were onboard a jeepney en route to the Edsa Shrine that was out of line.

When David and his group were finally allowed to go, he thought all of those detained, which by then had grown to 85, were also being set free. He found out that they had instead been herded to the camp's firing range.

"Most were children from the slums who hadn't eaten since the time they were brought in," David said.

"My arrest was providential." –Randy David (blog entry by Alecks Pabico)

Ikaw ang nawawalan ng seguridad sa sarili mong bansa ngayon dahil nagkaroon ng pag-aalsa ng ilang sundalong marino, pagkatapos sibakin sa puwesto ang kanilang lider nang wala man lamang sapat na kadahilanan. Ikaw ang nalalagay sa alanganin dahil pilit ikinukubli ng pamahalaan ang totoo, at kung naniniwala ka pa sa ating pangulo, maaaring hindi mo nararamdaman ngayon ang gulo:

...the seven-hour standoff in the elite military unit, which started at about 3 p.m. today, when Allaga took over the Marine Command. Miranda's relief, which the military top brass said was voluntary, but which Querubin said was not, agitated the Marines and compelled them to take action in protest.

At past 5 p.m. today, Querubin walked into the Marine headquarters to raise his objections to Miranda's relief and asked civilians to protect him and his men. Thousands of supporters responded to the call, including politicians and priests and nuns.

Querubin was later joined at the Marine headquarters by Lt. Col. Archie Segumalian, commander of the 2nd Marine Battalion, who also expressed disgust at Miranda's relief and anger at the way the Marines were supposedly being used to support the administration in the 2004 elections.

–Game Over? (by Shiela Coronel, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism blog)

Hamon ni Mikael:

Kilala mo ba sila? Hindi? Ako rin, hindi ko sila kilala. At malamang ako, tayo, hindi rin nila kilala. Pero handa silang mamatay. Handa silang mamatay at pumatay para sa iyo.

O, nasaan ka? Ano na'ng ginagawa mo? Natutuwa ka pa rin bang manood? Manood lang? Hindi ka pa ba nahihiya?

Ikaw, ano ang handa kang gawin?

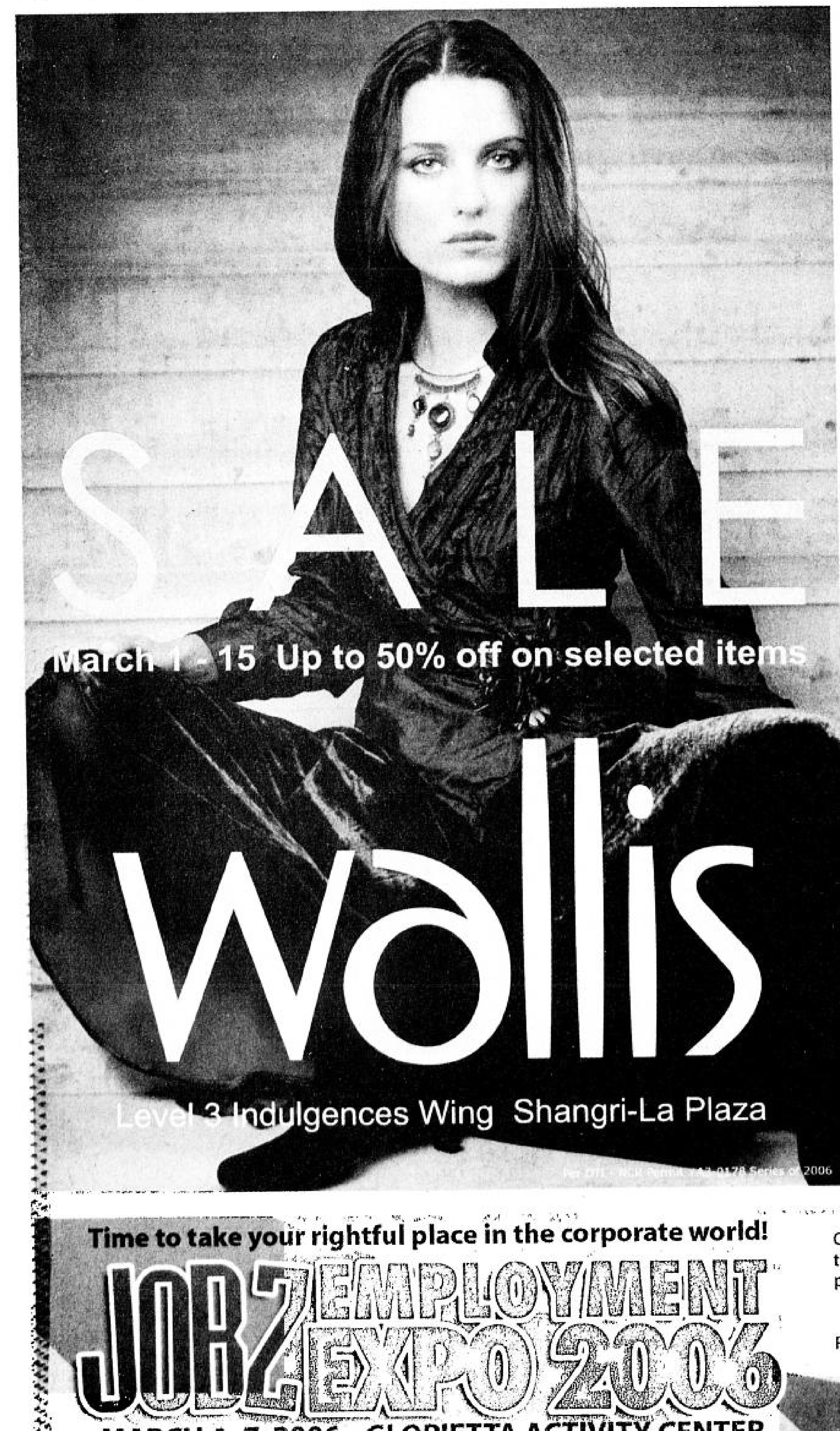
Ako?

–Sawa ka na bang manahimik? (blog entry ni Mikael Co)

Tingnan mo: Walang kasiya-siya sa nangyayari sa paligid mo.

The author is a 19-year-old student of BS Management majoring in Communications Technology Management at the Ateneo de Manila University. She first wrote this piece in her online journal.

E-mail the author at twinkle.delos-reyes@gmail.com


SALE
March 1 - 15 Up to 50% off on selected items
wallis
Level 3 Indulgences Wing Shangri-La Plaza
Per DTI - NCR Permit A3-0178 Series of 2006

Who can we turn to?

By Jason Doplito
Contributor

I WAS ABOUT TO LET GO OF ALL THE events that happened in the country, no wait—in Makati—in the last two days, until I read the papers last night and learned that the army meddled with the Daily Tribune, to put it lightly.

And according to a friend, the police were also parked outside other newspaper offices. I was peeved. Then it led to anger.

I now want GMA out of office.

What the f**k is she thinking, trying to intimidate the media?!

Chief of Staff Mike Defensor said Tribune was still free to say anything it wanted. "*Hindi namin pinapakialaman ang* publication *pero gusto naming ipakita iyong* strong presence *namin na huwag kayong gagawa ng kahit anuman na makakatulong sa rebelde* (We are not meddling with the publication but we just want to show our strong presence to tell them not to do anything that will help the rebels).

"*Pinapabayaan na ang* Tribune, *pero kailangan bantayan* because we are in an abnormal situation (Tribune is being allowed to print, but there's a need to guard it because we are in an abnormal situation)."

True. Abnormal *nga. Yung* boss *mo.*

The day the government takes over any media outfit, that's the day it will find me marching on the streets.

On the other hand, the reason these anti-GMA protest rallies aren't taking off is the presence of the unwanteds. Take for example Cory's march in Ayala Avenue last Friday.

To her right was Tito Sotto. Behind him was Jinggoy Estrada. Who would want to march with these peeps? While I was watching the scene on TV, I couldn't help thinking that perhaps, behind Cory's smile, she was thinking, "Could you please be nowhere near me, you freaks?!"

In order for the majority of the people—or fine, let's be honest, the middle class—to join Cory in her rallies, someone better make sure the unwanteds are weeded off the stage and cameras.

I think one reason most of us are in *bahala na* mode is that we see no one winning our sympathy. On one side, you have GMA. On the other, Cory, other people of questionable morals, and the unwanteds. Hence, *bahala sila dyan.*

The opposition needs to do a makeover and field a striking contrast to what we see in Gloria now. And that means making sure we don't see the likes of Jinggoy making an appeal for moral recovery. As if.

Time to take your rightful place in the corporate world!
JOBZ EMPLOYMENT EXPO 2006
MARCH 6 -7, 2006 GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER

On **March 6 & 7, Inquirer's Job Market** will host the year's first **JOBZ: Employment Expo** at the **Glorietta Activity Center**. As always, some of the country's top corporations will participate in this two-day job fair in the search for eager and qualified applicants.

To all job seekers and career shifters, we hope to see you there!

For inquiries, please call **897-8808 loc. 237.**

Philippine Daily Inquirer – The Power of Knowing · Job Market · Job Market · Ayala Center Glorietta · Greenbelt

EDSA PARA SA MAS
PEOPLE POWER PA! GLORIA PATALSIKIN!
AYAW X NA!
NO ENTRY

RAFFY LERMA
TOOTS SOBERANO
BING GONZALES
ROY CABRIDO

What do you think of Proclamation No. 1017?

From page C1

period Proclamation No. 1017." –**Kai, 17**

"This can lead to another Edsa." –**Mike, 24**

"This is a suppression of freedom of expression." –**Vhino Serrano, 20**

"I see two sides to the coin. PGMA needs to control forces she deems are destabilizing her administration. Yet the people she governs are paranoid of any proclamation similar to Marcos' martial law. Personally, I believe it's unnecessary if she had better control of her branch of government (executive), including the armed forces. A good leader would have her/his people follow her/him. This is obviously not the case. But generally, the Filipino people have become an undisciplined lot who, at the slightest discomfort, jump at the chance to use 'people power' and the 'media' to try and rock the boat their way, instead of sacrificing for the greater good. There is a need for discipline." –**Qpid**

"I felt it was unnecessary. The government should have thought of a different way to handle the situation. It just caused people to panic and be alarmed. But if that was Gloria's purpose, then it surely worked." –**Dinjo Constantino**

"The proclamation just shows PGMA's weak character, her being *pikon*. It spoiled the Edsa celebration altogether." –**Adelle**

"Although the President has every right to make such a proclamation as commander-in-chief, it is really alarming how actions taken by the government after the declaration—such as the raiding of the Daily Tribune—reek so much of martial law. It's ok if the President thinks that the opposition's continuous destabilization plot isn't helping the country's progress in any way, but she must not let her paranoia get the better of her. She must not even show that she's affected by it. That's the sign of a strong leader. With Proclamation No. 1017, democracy is once again hanging in the balance." –**Dexter**

"She kept repeating on TV that there were threats against the country. But that's not true—the threats were just against her, against her position. Proclamation No. 1017 was an act of desperation, an attempt to hold on to something that's slipping away." –**Batang Aktibista, 19**

"It's stupid. It's a lame excuse for people to act like animals." –**Katpimps, 19**

"It was a gross, paranoid overreaction. Still, the fact that despite the violations of civil liberties people did not protest as much as the opposition hoped they would reflect the people's mistrust of the opposition and its motives, almost as much as they mistrust GMA." –**Jay Mata, 22**

"The people need to know what's happening especially in the government whether it is postive or negative. The media's purpose is to bring news to the people. They should know what is happening in the country." –**Beads at Work, 19**

"History repeats itself. Aren't we seeing a repeat of what happened to our country more than 20 years ago? The government is getting more and more desperate to control everyone, not toward the common good but for their own good. It's so pathetic." –**AJ, 25**

"We cannot claim to be a democratic country with Proclamation No. 1017 around. While the media and the masses are not faultless, 1017 will only worsen the country's already deteriorating state—people will live in uncertainty and fear." –**Bianca Consuji, 21**

"*Utang na loob!* Former President Cory had nine real coups with bombings and hostilities, but did she ever declare a state of emergency? *Kay* PGMA, gossip *pa lang ng* coup, 1017 *na! Ano,* Marcos *uli?* AFP, wake up! Filipinos, wake up!" –**JMS**

"The proclamation stifles our right to freedom and speech and the responsibility of the journalists to provide information. This is actually repressing our country as it disallows dissenting thoughts. If the government wants to exhibit strength, it should handle journalistic criticisms bravely; muzzling the media is a manifestation of utter weakness." –**Cher, 22**

"I'm not pro-GMA, nor do I agree with the proclamation, yet I believe that it was necessary to stop the backward slide of the economy. I do not believe, though, the government should restrict the media from reporting the truth. If the government is doing what is according to the law, it should not fear the media." –**Spidey**

"Proclamation No. 1017 has recklessly magnified the threat to the nation. Far more violent riots have erupted. The proclamation is considered invalid and absurd." –**Irene, 31**

"I think that the state of emergency is doing the country more good than it's hurting it. It prevents major violence from erupting. The government can give more focus on economic growth." –**Giles Aquino, 25**

"It is the wrong solution. Suppressing freedom of speech will only provoke protests from the people. The proclamation brought the stock market down and forced other countries to issue travel advisories on our country. Goodbye, WOW Philippines." –**Arvin De Guzman**

"An overkill, a paranoid's reaction. It's like the local saying, '*Takot sa sariling multo.*' *Bilog talaga ang mundo*, what goes around comes around." –**Jake**

"There's a part of me that's for it because I'm aware that, ultimately, it's the people that make up a country. No amount of rules or laws will curtail the freedom if the people won't allow it. A good government does what it has to do." –**Zane, 26**

"This isn't the proper time to declare a state of emergency. The Philippines is not experiencing a crisis of massive proportions." –**Patrick Bonifacio, 20**

"It's PGMA's version of martial law. One would think that after everything that happened during martial law, something like it wouldn't happen again. I guess everyone was wrong." –**Rosa**

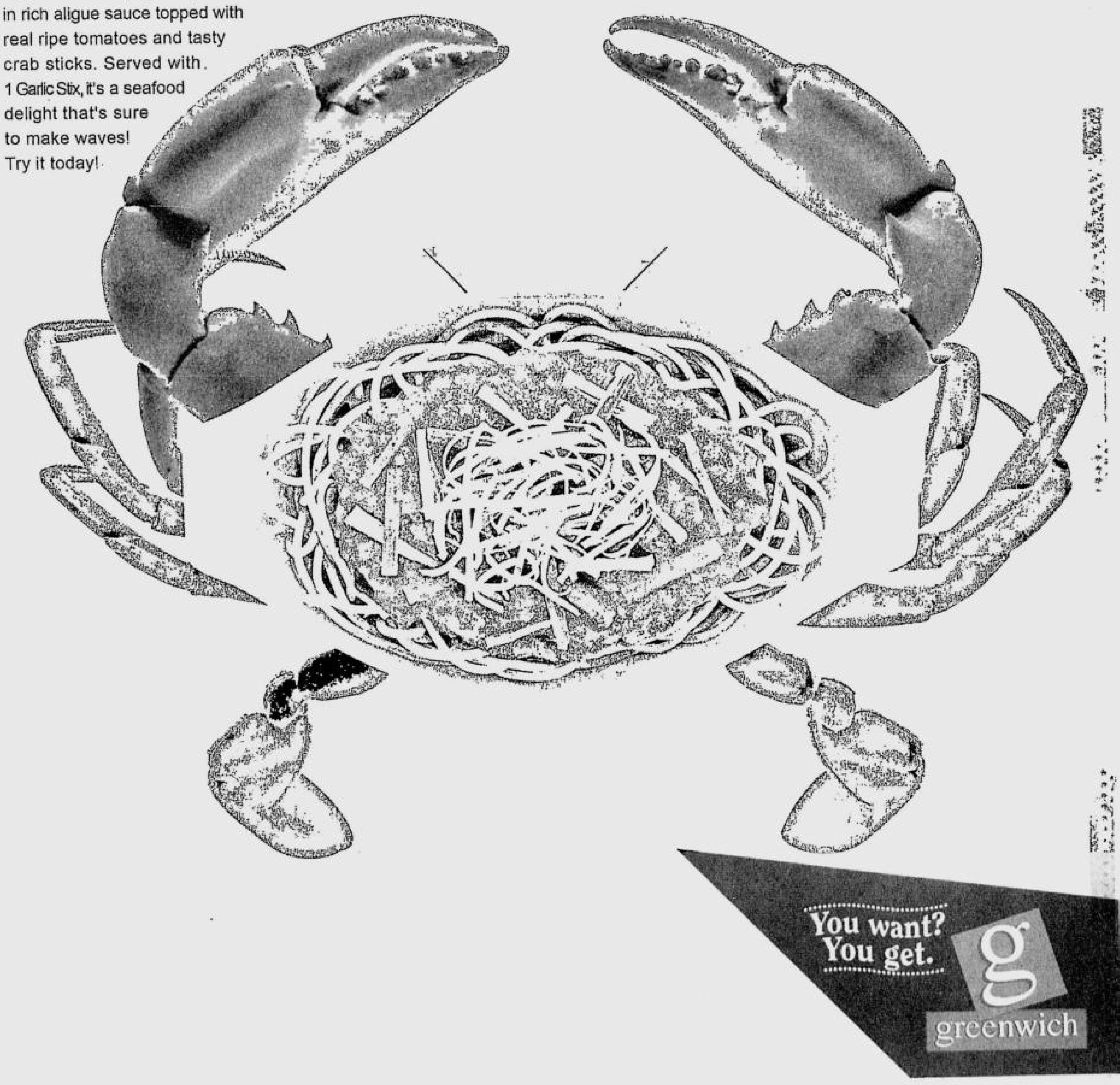
Celebrate your child's graduation.

Make your reservations now.

Check out the RESTAURANTS classification in the
DPC
YELLOW PAGES

NEW Alighetti

Look what the tide brought in! Ripples of firm spaghetti pasta in rich aligue sauce topped with real ripe tomatoes and tasty crab sticks. Served with 1 Garlic Stix, it's a seafood delight that's sure to make waves! Try it today!



You want? You get.
greenwich

SUMMER FUN. COMPLETE WORKSHOPS.

this Summer make it Happen!

JOIN A JOHN ROBERT POWERS SUMMER WORKSHOP JUST FOR KIDS. TEENS. GRADS.

Special Age Group Workshops in Personality Development, Acting, Modeling, Etiquette, and Grooming. Morning and afternoon Sessions to fit your schedule. Enroll Now and finish before your regular school classes begin. Earn the Worldwide John Robert Powers International Certificate. MAKE THIS SUMMER THE BEST EVER! HAVE FUN AND GET THE LIFETIME BENEFITS OF A WORKSHOP AT JOHN ROBERT POWERS. Enroll early for choice schedules.

CALL NOW!
892 9511

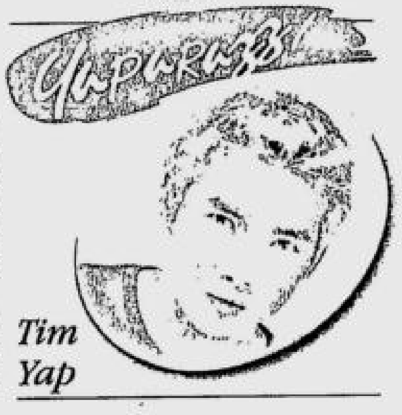
John Robert Powers
www.johnrobertpowers.com
Casmer Building, 195 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati
Guarded Parking Nearby

SAVE UP TO P5,000! ENROLL BEFORE MARCH 31. ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED. 0% INTEREST.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.A1-108 Series of 2006

PHOTOS BY TRAVIS KRAFT

A DIFFERENT kind of street party

As if nothing happened



Tim Yap

PARANG WALANG NANGYARI.

On my way to The Fort last Friday, I expected it to be a veritable ghost town.

Watching the television and seeing people rallying in the streets, with footage showing rallyists being harmed, did not exactly boost one's celebratory mood, 20 years after the revolution of yellow ribbons on the road that's now filled with billboards of **Kris Aquino.**

The sight I found at The Fort was not what I had expected. Jill's was playing its Friday night retro music, and as usual, regulars filled the al fresco seating and standing area to the brim. Other restaurants were filled as well.

On our side we had DJ **Riddler aka Richie Pangilinan**, a Pinoyorker who is making waves around the world with his vocals-infused house music that can make you dance 24 hours non-stop—a definite partyphile pleaser.

I looked around the packed dance floor and observed people having so much fun, like there was no tomorrow, like it was a Mardi Gras weekend.

And to think this was the eve of the "real" Edsa celebration, the 24th of February.

People were partying extra hard, literally. The raised fists in the air were really meant to signal to the DJ that they were truly enjoying his music, celebrating the moment, having a grand time.

"This is a state of emergency—to party!" MC **Ivan Zalameda** announced over the microphone. The revelers cheered on. It was a clear parody of the President's proclamation.

I am not here to pass judgement, but as I observed the blissful faces of the nocturnal creatures around me, it was as if nothing grave was happening.

Have we become jaded to uprisings in the streets? We cringe and feel sad every time we see our country depicted in a not-so-positive light on CNN, BBC and other global networks, but once we turn off the TV set, so does our concern for our country.

A photographer friend was conducting a shoot with a famous celebrity that day. This singer is famous for promoting good values and worthy causes. While watching the ABS-CBN coverage, they were all worried about the state of the nation. Once the fotog declared, "Okay, let's get on with our pictorial," the celeb readily posed and preened in front of his camera. Again, as if nothing was happening. It was business as usual.

H Salon in Rustan's Makati was full that day. I guess because school and work had been called off that day, some of them decided to make it a day of beauty. I overheard someone in another cubicle talking loudly on her mobile phone. "What? Yeah, I know there's a rally on Ayala now, but I'm in the parlor now having a hot oil treatment with **Henri Calayag.**"

Puppetry and protest

A visiting American friend who is originally from North Dakota (with zero-percent Filipino blood) was more involved. He wanted to go to the streets and take part in the rally. I just told him to be careful. I knew he was going to be safe. We are a peaceful people after all.

He returned to me with more than just stories of peace. He showed me pictures of smiling Filipino faces, waving at him, garbed in colors of our flag. It was no different from a fiesta. "I was called Joe, like 20,000 times," my friend, **Travis Kraft**, said, adding that he waved back at the amused rallyists.

On Ayala Avenue, vendors were selling peanuts and people were lounging around. He even spotted another American guy pushing a baby stroller. Yup, the guy brought his baby to the rally!

I have been to Edsa myself in the past. I mean Edsa Dos (not the first one because I was still a baby at that time—and my dad didn't bring me there on a stroller). In fact, I even celebrated my birthday right smack center of the action. There, I totally felt the spirit that makes us Filipinos proud.

But I went there with my own free will, because I wanted change. For the better.

Maybe the difference now is that some people who march in the streets are jeepney- and bus-loads of barangay folk who are maybe forced to go (by who, I do not know)—some of them don't even know why they are there in the first place.

Except for the people in the front lines who hopefully still really care genuinely for what they're fighting for, the rest of the hoi polloi who pollute the streets were there for other reasons Thus, the spirit of "fighting in the streets" has been lost.

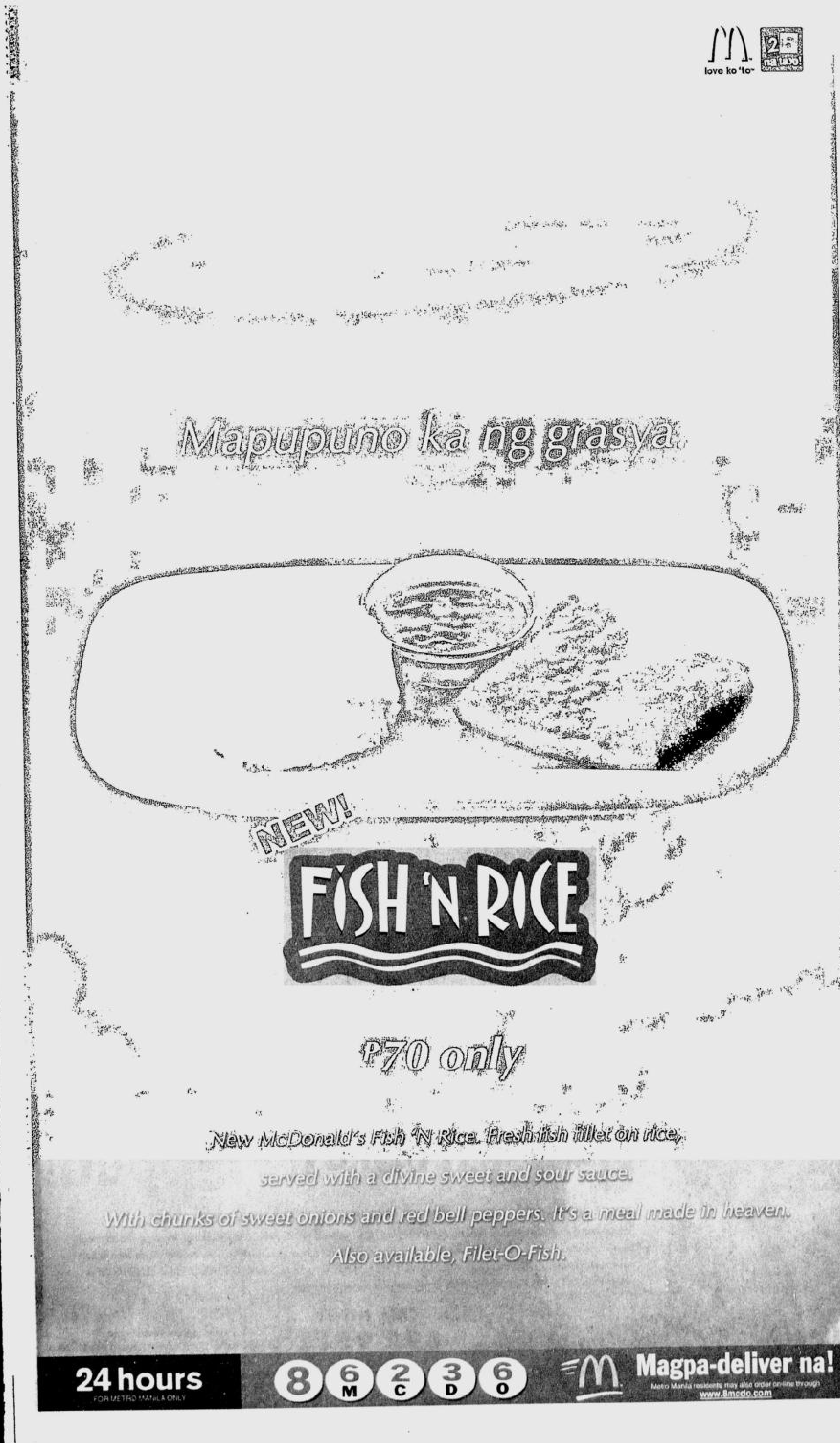
Even the venue for protest has changed. From mass-based Edsa, the scene of the action is now in upscale Ayala. It proves it is really the elite who do the puppetry behind the protests.

And for these people, and the same goes for all of us—after the turmoil, it's just business as usual.

Parang walang nangyari.

12
11
1
10
ORAS NA, GLORIA!
2
9
LAYAS NA!
3
8
4
GABRIELA
7
6
5

TIME AFTER TIME, again and again


love ko 'to

Mapupuno ka ng grasya

NEW!

FISH 'N RICE

₱70 only

New McDonald's Fish 'N Rice. Fresh fish fillet on rice, served with a divine sweet and sour sauce. With chunks of sweet onions and red bell peppers. It's a meal made in heaven. Also available, Filet-O-Fish.

24 hours
FOR METRO MANILA ONLY

8 6 2 3 6
M C D O

Magpa-deliver na!
Metro Manila residents may also order on-line through www.8mcdo.com

LIFESTYLE

to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you! • 2bU!

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

CHAMP Lui-Pio (lead vocals), Roll Martinez (guitar), Sheldon Gellada (bass) and Omnie Saroca (drums) rehearse their new songs.

IT'S SHOW TIME! Hale performs before screaming fans.

Hail to Hale

IT'S BEEN NEARLY TWO YEARS NOW since Champ Lui-Pio, Roll Martinez, Sheldon Gellada and Omnie Saroca got together to form a band, create their own music and share it with the rest of the country.

Thus began the journey of Hale, one of today's hottest and most in-demand bands in the country.

Not only have they raked in countless awards and citations for their chart-topping hits "Broken Sonnet," "The Day You Said Goodnight" and "Kahit Pa," they've also won the hearts of music-lovers and the nod of hard-to-please critics. Their schedule is now jam-packed with mall shows, TV guestings and even more gigs.

And so it's not a big surprise that these always-on-the-go guys love to binge, jump into the sheets, and chill out whenever their schedules permit them to do so.

Just what is the band's definition of fun? Apart from DVD marathons and basketball, when given the opportunity to take a breather, they happily indulge in simple pleasures like hanging out with the boys, joking around, and feasting on instant noodles, pizza, barbecue from the nearby *sari-sari* store and *chichiria*.

Whenever they're awake though, it's mainly music that fills up their days. "We're working on this full-time," says Roll. But as much as they want to head over to the studio and rehearse, the lack of time often proves to be an obstacle for the Hale guys.

"The thing is that we don't have time, so it's just gigs," adds vocalist Champ. "Whenever we have free time, we spend it with our families," adds Roll. But relatives are surely not the only ones special in the band members' books.

The fans—or the Halers as the band members themselves call them—are the guys' inspiration, the main reason why they're always giving their best and why they vow to make nothing but the best music possible.

CHAMP signs autographs at the concert venue.

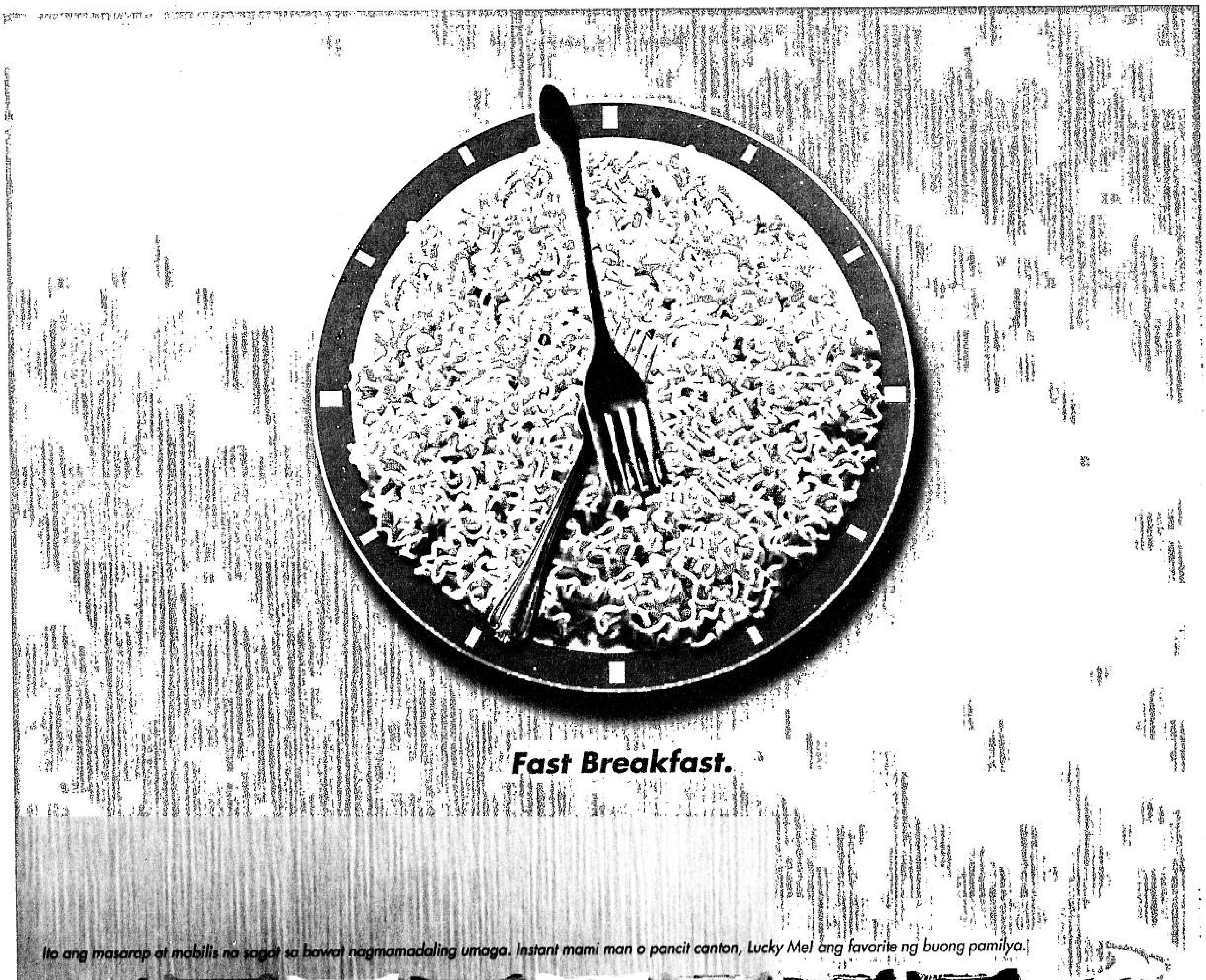
TEAM spirit becomes Hale with a short prayer prior to going on stage.

According to the band, they've got the most devoted followers on earth. Take for example, Halers who troop to Taytay, Rizal, all the way from Alabang, or Halers from Baguio who don't care if they get drenched by the rain, just to be able to watch the band perform live.

In such a short span of time, much has truly changed for these young musicians from the South. Complete strangers recognize them and ask for autographs or pictures to be taken with them.

CHAMP and Omnie joke around over a quick dinner before their concert.

After the self-titled debut album, a repackaged album with videos and a new song is coming out this March. Definitely, Hale is on a roll.



Fast Breakfast.

Ito ang masarap at mabilis na sagot sa bawat nagmamadaling umaga. Instant mami man o pancit canton, Lucky Me! ang favorite ng buong pamilya.

Lucky Me!

TV HOST and model Phoemela Barranda

THE PERFECT FIT: Phoem forgets stress when she sees shoes!

A SHOPAHOLIC, Phoemela can't resist good finds.

JUDY Ann revels in simple pleasures when not busy working.

The busy and the beautiful

LUCKY ME!, FILIPINOS' FAVORITE INSTANT noodle brand, found its way into homes, schools and offices by providing delicious quick-meal solutions to busybodies. The range of Lucky Me! products addresses the ever-changing needs of the Filipino consumer. The result: convenient meals that are fuss-free, affordable, and fortified with micronutrients.

Lucky Me! celebrates these individuals who, despite their youth, are tackling the urban jungle with ease and grace. For these go-getting busy bees, managing time has become an art form. Between their countless public engagements and all-night shootings, convenience has meant weaving fuss-free products into their lifestyles, like Lucky Me!

Lucky in love. Judy Ann Santos is one of today's most bankable actresses. Her beau, TV personality Ryan Agoncillo, is yet another busybody. So how did the stars conspire to get them together?

"We have so much in common," says Agoncillo, "and we genuinely enjoy each other's company."

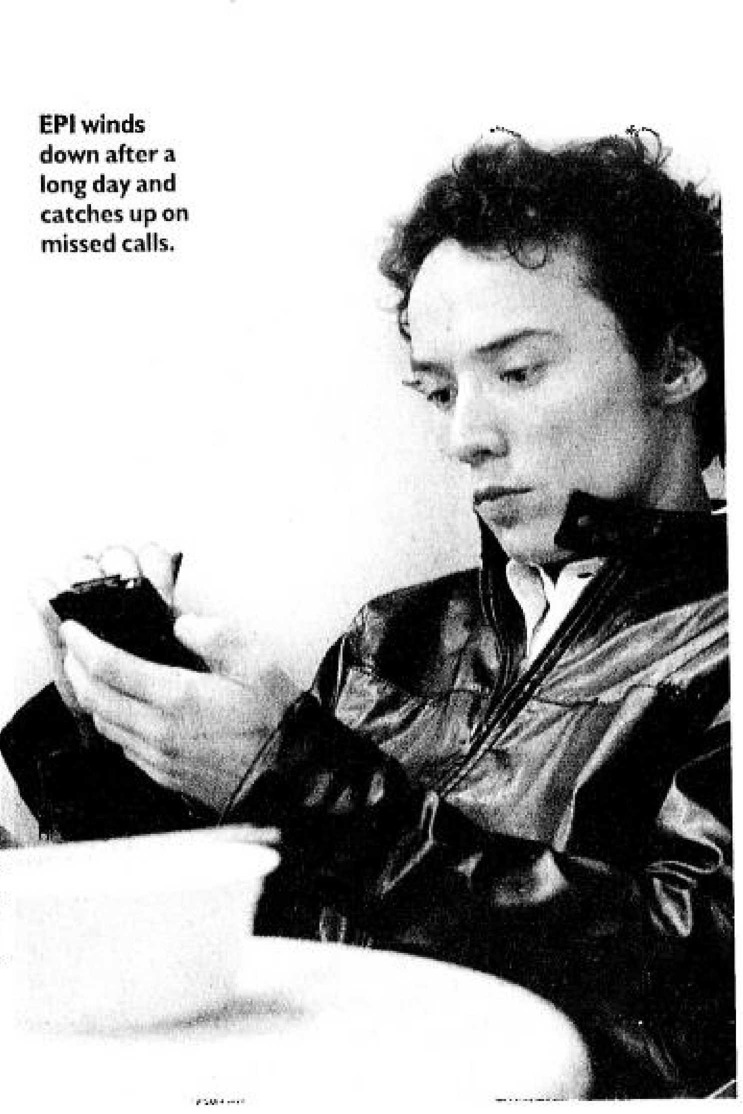
The couple enjoys diving, playing video games at Timezone and watching movies together. Despite their common penchant for food (Santos can whip up some mean lettuce

A NATURALLY sociable person, Phoemela never misses a chance to catch up with her friends.

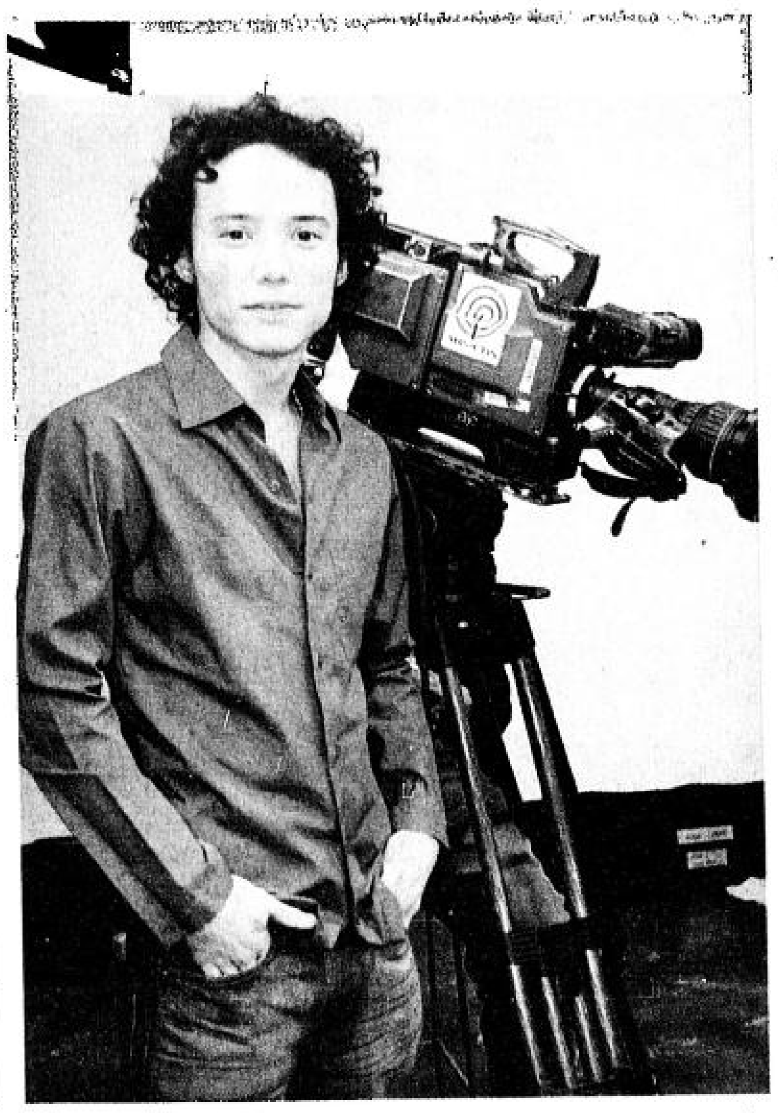
JUDY Ann and Ryan share a playful moment.

LUCKY IN LOVE: Box-office star Judy Ann and television personality Ryan Agoncillo

LOVE and laughter



EPI winds down after a long day and catches up on missed calls.



RENAISSANCE MAN: Epi Quizon is an actor, athlete, musician and artist, among other things.

RELAXING after work

wraps and pizza), both religiously head to the gym to burn the calories.

"We're both into martial arts. I practice muay thai while Ryan does jiujitsu," says Santos.

While work takes most of their time, the two remain keen about pursuing their respective passions. For Agoncillo, it's photography. "I have been taking photos semi-professionally for three years now."

Agoncillo, who also hosts the TV show "Y-Speak," reveals, "Judy Ann and I will get to spend more time together. Since my co-host, Bianca Gonzales, entered the "Pinoy Big Brother" house, Judy Ann will be taking her place in the meantime."

The pair are very excited about what the future has in store for them, and are working hard to nurture a relationship they describe as "fun and fulfilling." Indeed, it looks like they're enjoying every second of it.

Lucky break. Nikki Gil sprung into the public eye as the intriguingly pleasant singer in a soda commercial. Today, Nikki is a recording star, MYX VJ, model, TV show host, and a consistent honor student.

The unassuming beauty says, "I believe God put me here for a reason. I'm trying to enjoy the stardom as much as I can. But I have my priorities straight: School still comes first!"

This busy bee balances time like a pro. She studies in between her takes, catches up on sleep while in the car, and takes warm meals in an instant.

An English literature major at Ateneo de Manila University, Gil was also her high school's batch valedictorian. "I work hard. I study hard. And I pray a lot. That's how I cope!"

Some guys have all the luck. "Passion is what I have," says Epi Quizon. He's referring, of course, to his dedication to art, theater, music and film. His notable works now include "Markova," "Radyo" and "Pinoy Blonde." He also currently co-stars in the sitcom "Quizon Ave."

Recently, Quizon formed a new production outfit called Crazy Angle Productions, which gives him the opportunity to pursue thought-provoking subjects while pursuing his inclination for the visual arts. What's more, he sings and plays guitar for his band Makatha, which will be releasing a self-titled album soon.

And did you know that Epi is a professional athlete? He is a former member of the Philippine Football Team. A true renaissance man!

Stress is inevitable in Quizon's lifestyle. To relieve stress and regain lost energy, he takes periodic breathers—forty winks and quick energy-boosting meals for the long day ahead.

"I love entertainment in general, regardless of form or medium. There is a flame inside me that burns for what I do. When things go crazy, I do theater. Then I feel rejuvenated to face show business once again," he says.

Isn't she lucky. Burnout doesn't exist in Phoem Barranda's vocabulary. The model-turned-host finds her latest ABS-CBN pursuit quite exciting. "Hosting is new to me, that's why it's so challenging," she says.

A ramp veteran, Barranda is also the public relations officer of the Professional Models Association of the Philippines (PMAP), a work that involves her in developing fresh talent and protecting models' rights.

So where does she find the time for all these pursuits? "I don't sleep," jokes Barranda. "I'm always on the go and the levels of stress are very high!"

To deal with the pressure, she has a fool-proof solution: Do Pilates, read a book or go shopping! Another good stress-buster for her is taking soothing warm meals that are convenient and energy-boosting.

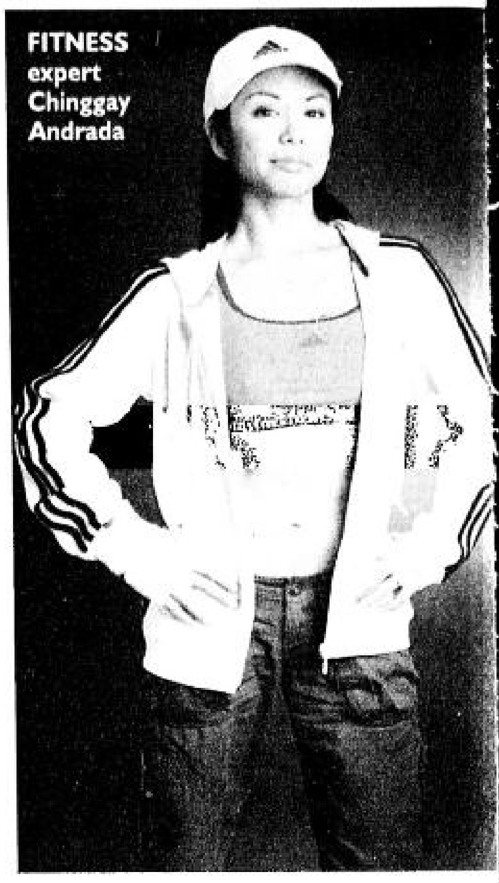
EPI grabs a quick bite before getting ready for his take in "Quizon Ave."

SINGER and MYX VJ Nikki Gil listens to her fave tunes.

BEAUTY-AND-BRAINS girl Nikki Gil

CLOCKWISE from left: Chinggay Andrada, Pia Boren, Donnie Geisler, Gaby dela Merced and Wesley Gonzales

RACE-CAR driver Gaby dela Merced



FITNESS expert Chinggay Andrada

The stuff champions are made of

TAEKWONDO Olympiad Donnie Geisler

FIVE OF TODAY'S MOST PROMinent champs excel in their respective sports, but all agree that it takes a lot of heart and commitment to get as far as they have.

Olympiad and SEA Games gold medalist Donnie Geisler encourages sports among kids to cultivate discipline and determination. "I'll be teaching taekwondo soon. I want to help make children champions," he says.

Fast-talking, fast-punching Chinggay Andrada lives 25-hour days: as DJ for pop station RX 93.1, host of the ABS-CBN TV show "Sports TV," a boxing instructor and a fitness columnist.

"There are so many hazards to leading a healthy lifestyle. For me, the key is to nourish the body and spirit," she says.

Basketball star Wesley Gonzales is one of Air21's best-known players partly due to his role in the historical win of the Ateneo Blue Eagles championship in 2002. Concurrently, he is also deep into his Masters in Business Administration classes.

"I always work to be on top of my game. Being the best I can be in anything is what motivates me," he says. "I really look up to my parents. They've instilled in me that drive to constantly improve."

SPEED siren Pia Boren

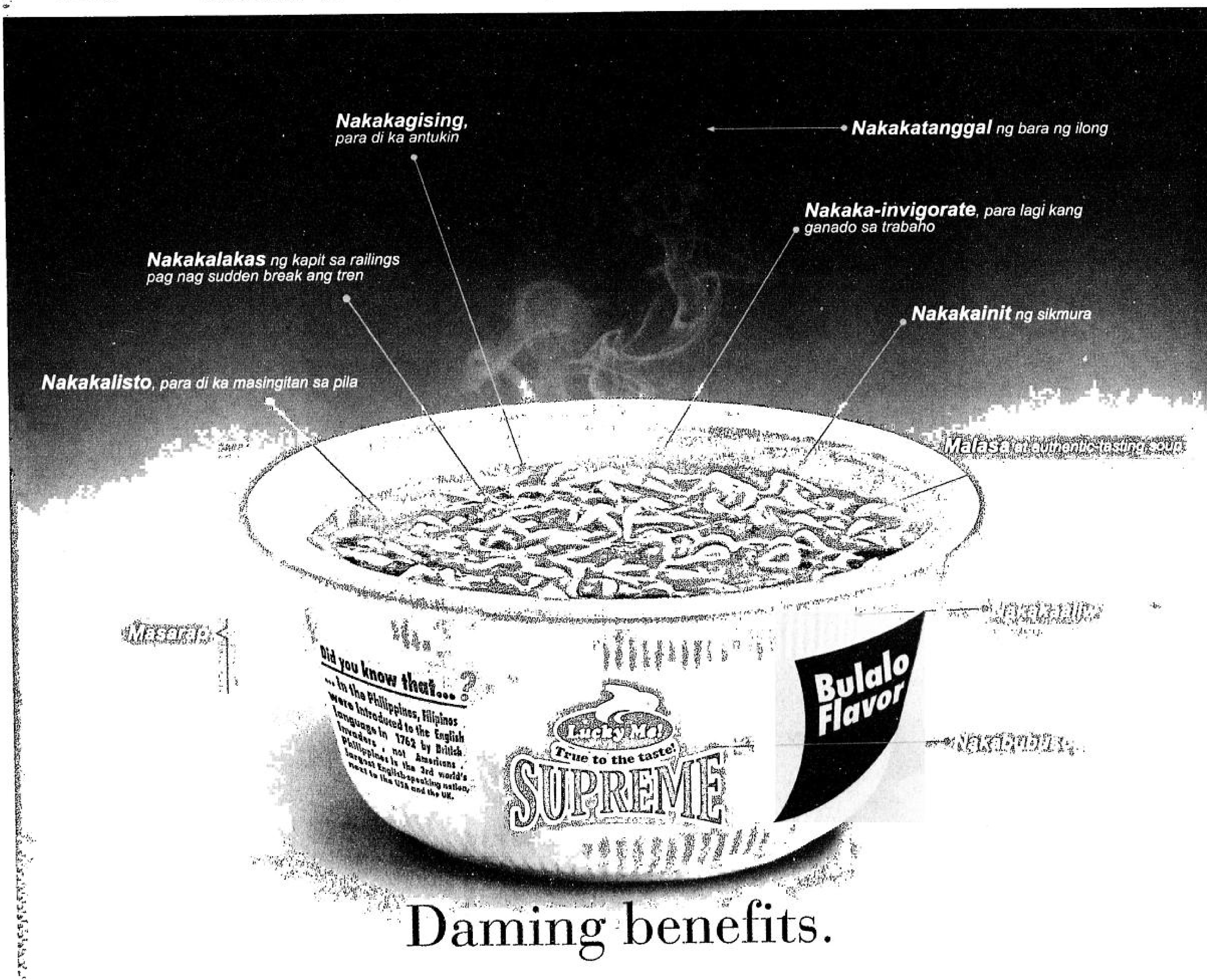
2005 Ford Lynx Cup racing champion Pia Boren enjoys the fast lane. Whether it be breaking the speed limit or racing in the halls of her college to get to class, she is always ahead. "I've always admired people who constantly go beyond the limit," says the first Filipina to ever drive a Formula 3 car.

Gaby dela Merced, on the other hand, is a 23-year-old karting, slalom and circuit champ. She says, "Sports motivates me because of the adrenaline. It has a lot to do with passion. Racing is a very precise sport, and I am so fascinated with the level of analysis and science required."

For Dela Merced, "Exercise, rest, and proper nutrition are very important to maintain focus. It's good that there are convenient, easy-to-prepare meals available now for that quick energy boost."

Speaking of easy-to-prepare meals for quick energy boost, Lucky Me! salutes these young go-getters and supports their achievements. A good alternative for active people, Lucky Me! is easy to prepare and rich in carbohydrates, providing fuel to see you through an action-packed day.

BASKETBALL star Wesley Gonzales


Nakakagising, para di ka antukin
Nakakatanggal ng bara ng ilong
Nakaka-invigorate, para lagi kang ganado sa trabaho
Nakakalakas ng kapit sa railings pag nag sudden break ang tren
Nakakainit ng sikmura
Nakakalisto, para di ka masingitan sa pila
Malasa at authentic-tasting soup
Masarap
Did you know that...? ...In the Philippines, Filipinos were introduced to the English language in 1762 by British invaders, not Americans. Philippines is the 3rd world's largest English-speaking nation, next to the USA and the UK.
Lucky Me! True to the taste! SUPREME
Bulalo Flavor
Daming benefits.